

Cabinet approves law amendments

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Saturday approved an amendment to the National Health Insurance (NHI) law. According to the amendment a board of trustees would replace the institution's board of directors and the NHI director general would have the powers of a minister. During a regular session, chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, the Cabinet also approved an amendment to the law of public purchasing, an amendment to the Department of Urban Development law and another to the civilian students fund at Mu'ta University.

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EEC begins peace mission

MADRID (AP) — Spain's foreign minister left for Israel Saturday on a European Economic Community (EEC) mission to sound out leaders there on possible advances towards an international peace conference involving direct talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez left for Israel 24 hours after holding detailed talks here with Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi, who urged EEC nations to pressure Israel to accept direct talks with the PLO (see page 2).

Prior to leaving, Fernandez Ordóñez told reporters at the airport "I'm not going to Israel to attempt any kind of pressure or to give advice."

"I'm going in the name of the EEC, Israel's most important trading partner, to try to learn in

depth, point by point, what is the position (on peace talks) of the new government of Israel," the minister said.

Spain assumed the six-month rotating presidency of the 12-nation EEC Jan. 1 and received an EEC mandate Dec. 19, along with France and Greece, to establish contacts with all sides in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The EEC move was aimed at bringing about an international peace conference directly involving the PLO in coordination with the United States.

In comments made Friday to Spanish reporters and published Saturday in Spain's leading daily El País, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens was quoted as saying:

"The best that the European democracies can do is support us (Israel), ... support our positions and not ask us to make concessions."

During his 48-hour stay Fernandez Ordóñez was to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, a strong opponent of the establishment of a Palestinian state, Arens and Finance Minister Shimon Peres.

The Spaniard's trip to Israel was only his second since Spain and Israel established diplomatic relations Jan. 17, 1986, two weeks after Spain joined the EEC.

When Spain and Israel agreed to formal diplomatic ties, Spain upgraded the Madrid PLO office to "a level similar to that of a



Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez

diplomatic mission," as Fernandez Ordóñez described it.

On Friday, the Spanish minister underscored that his Israel trip comes at a special moment, after moves toward moderation by the PLO, the United States' decision last month to open direct talks with the PLO, and days before PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is to visit Madrid.

Arafat's visit, only his third to Spain since 1979, is set for Jan. 26-27, when he will meet jointly with EEC-nation foreign ministers Fernandez Ordóñez, Roland Dumas of France and Karolos Papoulias of Greece.

PNC chief, European team hold talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh Saturday told a European delegation that the Palestinian people had accepted the principles of peaceful coexistence in the Middle East. Sheikh Sayeh also expressed hope that the European countries would contribute towards achieving just and comprehensive peace in the region through an international conference, Jordan Television said.

Sheikh Sayeh's comments came during a meeting with a delegation representing the Council of Europe at the PNC headquarters in Amman. The delegation is led by Miguel Angel Martinez, head of the Spanish group in the Council of Europe.

At Saturday's meeting, PNC Political Committee Chairman Khaled Al Hassan explained to the delegation the resolutions adopted by the PNC in Algiers in November last year and the Palestinian strategy for peace in the Middle East. The Council of Europe delegation is on a fact-finding mission in the Middle East. It arrived here Wednesday after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat in Cairo. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi held talks with the delegation, which paid a visit to Syria before returning to Amman for Saturday's meeting.

The delegation discussed regional issues with Syrian officials Thursday, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported.

Martinez said the aim of the visit was to get acquainted with the situation in the area, SANA said.

The agency said Parliament Speaker Abdul Qader Qadourah during a meeting with the delegation, emphasised Syria's support for an international peace conference on the Middle East, attended by the PLO and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

SANA said the delegation also discussed with Qadourah the present political crisis in Lebanon caused by the failure of the parliament to elect a successor to President Amin Gemayel before his six-year



Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh

term ended Sept. 22.

The group, representing the 23-country Council of Europe, also met with Naser Kadour, minister of state for foreign affairs, and discussed "the situation in the Arab arena," SANA said.

Zaire looks for home for Idi Amin

KINSHASA (R) — Zaire began looking Saturday for a home for Idi Amin, the deposed Ugandan dictator who shipped out of exile in Saudi Arabia last week and is now without a country.

The government of President Mobutu Sese Seko said Amin's embarrassing presence could threaten its relations with neighboring Uganda.

Amin, deported by Zaire Thursday after leaving his exile home in Saudi Arabia, flew back to Kinshasa Friday when the Saudis apparently refused to accept him back.

"Zaire will do everything to find a solution to this, to say the least, embarrassing presence in an attempt to safeguard its good neighbourly relations (with Uganda)," a Foreign Affairs Ministry statement said.

Uganda, which wants to question Amin about massacres and human rights abuses, has asked for him to be sent back to Kampala.

Zairean officials have so far ruled this out, saying the country has no extradition treaty with its eastern neighbour.

Amin, 61, arrived back in Kinshasa aboard the Zairean government aircraft which had taken him to Geneva Thursday.

The captain of the Saudia Airlines plane in Dakar refused to let him aboard, saying he did not have a visa for Saudi Arabia, the statement said. The Senegalese authorities told the former dictator to return to Zaire, it said.

He had been arrested at Kinshasa airport Jan. 3 after trying to slip back into Africa with one of his sons, using a false name and a stolen Zairean passport.

Diplomats said he had been taken to a small house in Kinshasa where he was probably allowed to see one of his wives who has lived here since his overthrow.

They said Amin's presence was acutely embarrassing for Mobutu, who once had close links with the man the international media have portrayed as a butcher and buffoon.

Waldegrave reminds Israeli leaders of their terrorist past

LONDON (Agencies) — A British government minister urged Israeli leaders Saturday to recall the terrorist past of some of its leaders and accept that Palestinians could also abandon violence.

Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave, returning from talks with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat in Tunis, told British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) radio that Israel should welcome the PLO's offers of peace.

"The world is changing around them, and if they do not change they will be left behind."

"I think the point I would like to make to the Israeli government is that, just as many of the founding fathers of Israel — including indeed the present prime minister

of Israel — were in their time involved in what we at the time described as terrorism, but ... (made) the move away from the gun and towards the institutions of peace, so they should have confidence that there are people on the Palestinian side who can take the same courageous step," Waldegrave said.

Waldegrave said after his meeting with Arafat Friday.

This year is crucial there is a window of opportunity and if we waste it it may not recur."

Waldegrave was talking to reporters after two hours with Arafat at the home of Hakam Balawi, PLO representative in Tunis. It was the first time Arafat has met a British minister.

Waldegrave and Arafat, sur-

rounded by many senior PLO figures, discussed the proposed international conference on Middle East peace and what practical steps they could take to convene it as soon as possible.

Waldegrave, asked what could help bring the conference closer, replied: "For the time being, some sign of response from Israel."

Waldegrave said the continuity in the U.S. administration, with Vice-President George Bush taking over from President Ronald Reagan, would save time in formulating new U.S. policies.

Arafat repeated his invitation to Israeli leaders to come to U.N.-sponsored talks, alongside

(Continued on page 3)

Shi'ite clerics launch bid to end Amal-Hizbollah battle

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's top Shi'ite clerics met Saturday for the first time in more than two years to try to end two weeks of savage battles between rival militias.

In the devastated southern town of Jubah, scene of house-to-house fighting between the Amal militia and Hizbollah, residents took advantage of a relative lull Saturday to flee for safety.

Fears grew of a new flare-up in Beirut's southern suburbs after a car bomb killed a woman and wounded 30 people Friday, minutes after a procession by some 4,000 Hizbollah demonstrators chanting slogans against Amal.

Hizbollah hinted Amal was behind the bomb, which missed the parade and injured other passers-by. Amal denied responsibility.

The latest round of a year-long

battle between Amal and Hizbollah — struggling for leadership of Lebanon's 1.5 million Shi'ites — started in Beirut on New Year's day and spread to the south. At least 116 have been killed and 150 wounded.

Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, Hizbollah's spiritual mentor, and Sheikh Mohammad Shamseddine, vice-president of the Higher Shi'ite Council which is generally sympathetic to Amal, met for half-an-hour but declined to answer questions afterwards.

Shi'ite sources said the meeting was their first in more than two years and could help narrow the rifts in Lebanon's biggest religious sect.

"If continued, this war will move to other positions and will burn all the Shi'ite sect... it will end by security arrangements

but by a political solution and a dialogue between the combatants," Fadlallah told worshippers at Friday prayers.

Witnesses reported only sporadic artillery, rocket and machinegun fire Saturday around Jubah, overlooking a cluster of villages in the Iqlim Al Tufah region stretching from Sidon to Israel's self-declared "security zone."

Security sources said four people were wounded.

Residents who fled the town Saturday said only about 500 of the 6,000 people were still there. They said several bodies were decaying in the narrow streets of stone houses and there were bread, water and electricity shortages.

(Continued on page 3)

Modernisation, human rights dominate non-aligned talks

NICOSIA (AP) — Foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement attending a special conference to make their movement more effective disagreed Saturday over proposals for a more active involvement in human rights, conference sources said.

There is also disagreement over dropping the movement's long-standing procedure to reach decisions by consensus and instituting majority rule, the sources said.

The four-day conference, which opened Friday, is attended by 39 countries. Delegates include 15 foreign ministers and 11 deputy ministers.

At the foreign ministers plenary conference held in Nicosia last September, delegates complained that the organisation was bloated, churning out endless documents that nobody read and adopting resolutions that nobody followed. The conference on making the movement more effective emerged from the September session.

One of the recommendations made by a preparatory committee was that human rights should be one area which the movement should focus on in future.

Delegates to the closed-door meeting, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the suggestion was rejected by several member states, who also opposed abandoning decisions by consensus.

Reports of human rights violations among the 101 members have been invariably overlooked in previous conferences because of the consensus rule.

Singapore, one of the members pressing for the modernization of the movement, pointed out in a paper presented to the conference that the principle of consensus prevents "dramatic change because any change would require the agreement of those who prefer the status quo."

It added that consensus "dictates that the views of one opposing member state cannot be overridden."

one of our member states violates the principles of the U.N. charter, we are paralysed and incapable of criticising it."

The Singapore paper said "this may be the most painful dilemma of our movement... either we inflict pain on the member that has violated the U.N. charter, or we inflict pain on the movement by undermining its credibility."

A final decision on adopting new procedures will be made by the foreign ministers conference in Harare in May, which will study the result of the Nicosia conference and make final recommendations to be considered by the movement's summit conference in Belgrade in September.

Cyprus Foreign Minister George Iacovou, who presides over the Nicosia conference, said in his opening address Friday that in his contacts with 70 foreign ministers "I sensed that there was genuine interest in revitalising the role of the Non-Aligned Movement."

Reagan, Bush fight subpoenas

WASHINGTON (R) — Oliver North has won dismissal of two key Iran-contra charges but faces a struggle over whether President Ronald Reagan and President-elect George Bush can be compelled to testify in his defence on 12 remaining criminal counts.

The judge ruled Friday he would drop the two charges stemming from the arms sales to Iran and the diversion of the profits to the Nicaraguan contras, but said jury selection would begin for the Jan. 31 trial on the remaining charges.

After the ruling, the Justice Department asked the judge to throw out the subpoenas demanding that Reagan and Bush testify in court as defence witnesses for the former White House aide who was at the centre of the Iran-contra scandal.

The Justice Department's filing, which denounced the presidential subpoenas as unprecedented, represented a setback for defence attorneys who want to show that North's actions had been approved, at least implicitly, by his superiors.

"These subpoenas raise profound constitutional concerns," Assistant Attorney General John Bolton said in arguing that Reagan and Bush enjoy executive privilege and cannot be forced to testify about sensitive national security and foreign policy matters.

As the department was opposing the subpoenas for testimony by Reagan and Bush, North's lawyers delivered a second set of subpoenas asking for their records on the Iran-contra scandal, the department said.

Bolton also argued that requiring Reagan or Bush to testify poses what he described as grave risks to U.S. relations with foreign nations.

"The spectacle of a former or sitting president being subjected to (the) judicial process

(Continued on page 3)

Israeli bullets claim 2 more Palestinian girls

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two Palestinian girls injured by Israeli army gunfire died from their wounds Saturday and merchants in the occupied Gaza Strip observed a week-long strike in protest at tough Israeli tax policies.

An army spokesman said 12-year-old Hanadi Abu Sultan, of Gaza's Sha'ti refugee camp, died in hospital, and Rana Al Masri, 15, of Nablus, died in Jerusalem's Mokassed hospital.

Both received head wounds earlier this month in separate clashes with troops. Their deaths raised to at least 363 the number of Palestinians who have died in the 13-month-old uprising in the occupied territories.

Nablus, the West Bank's largest city, shut down in an impromptu general strike to mourn Masri's death, residents said. They said former schoolmates marched through otherwise empty city streets.

"We closed stores and schools for the girl who was killed. We will give every martyr a strike

day," a Nablus resident told Reuters by telephone.

Hospital officials in Nablus said soldiers wounded a 14-year-old boy with live ammunition, and residents reported scattered clashes with troops during the strike.

Palestinians said at least 10 protesters were injured in other clashes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Clashes were reported in other parts of the Gaza Strip. Hospital officials said a 17-year-old Palestinian from Rafah was in serious condition after a bullet struck him in the head.

At least seven other Palestinian teenagers, aged 13 to 18, were wounded in stone-throwing clashes with troops in Rafah and the Khan Yunis refugee camp, doctors said. The casualties included a 16-year-old boy shot in the chest.

Merchants in Gaza, meanwhile, continued their commercial strike for a second day Saturday. The strike, called by leaders of the 13-month Palestinian upris-

ing, was to protest Israeli raids to collect taxes. Non-payment of taxes is a major uprising tactic.

The strike, urged in a recent leaflet by underground leaders of the revolt, called on merchants to shut their stores for seven days. The leaflet said they could still sell goods from their homes.

The Israeli "civil administration," which governs Gaza, has been building special tax offices at an army checkpoint at the entrance to the strip.

If traders have not paid taxes, their vehicles and goods are impounded until they do so. Palestinians said they were also charged a daily "parking" fee for their confiscated vehicles.

Israel has taken a variety of measures during the uprising to assert control over the Gaza residents, who are urged by underground Palestinian leaders not to cooperate with Israeli officials.

Military authorities last year ordered Gazans to renew their identity cards, change their vehicle licence plates and pay a special car registration tax.

East-West accord signed; way cleared for arms talks

VIENNA (Agencies) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the Warsaw Pact agreed Saturday on new East-West talks to reduce conventional forces across Europe after protracted negotiations resolved a territorial dispute between Greece and Turkey.

Negotiators from the world's two most powerful military blocs initiated a mandate for the new arms talks at a closed-door meeting, said a Western diplomat who attended.

Diplomats then prepared to seal a landmark human rights accord that was informally accepted by the East and West and 12 neutral nations Friday.

Both accords paved the way for U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to join 33 other foreign ministers next week at a three-day meeting to conclude the 35-nation Helsinki review conference.

More than two years of hard bargaining yielded a human rights accord of unprecedented detail from that conference. But final agreement had been uncertain because the Greek-Turkish dispute blocked accord on the arms talks mandate, which had to be included in the final Helsinki agreement.

The Greek-Turkish dispute, part of more than a week of almost continuous negotiations, was

resolved after hectic last-minute telephone calls between Vienna and the Turkish capital, Ankara.

Greece wanted to include a strategic triangle of Turkish territory close to the Syrian border in the new arms talks. The territory includes the port of Mersin, which Greece says is used to ship arms to northern Cyprus.

Turkey had agreed with the Soviet Union to exclude the territory and feared that reopening the issue might prompt Moscow to reiterate earlier demands to include the nearby U.S. air base of Incirlik in the talks.

A Western diplomat, who asked not to be further identified, said the dispute finally was resolved after the Soviet Union and three unidentified NATO states exchanged letters with Ankara.

Their exact content was not disclosed, but they reportedly enabled a compromise formula whereby Mersin was neither explicitly included or excluded from the new talks.

The new arms talks, dubbed the negotiations on conventional armed forces in Europe (CAFE), aim to reduce troops, tanks, heavy artillery and other weapons across the continent, from the Atlantic to the Ural mountains deep inside the Soviet Union.

SINCERE APPRECIATION

On behalf of the Imperial Family and the Government and people of Japan, the Japanese Ambassador to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan wishes to express his sincere appreciation to

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Soviets reassure Kabul of support

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze has promised Afghanistan's beleaguered government that the Kremlin will continue to provide "all-around assistance," TASS said Saturday.

The Soviet news agency's report on talks between Shevardnadze and Afghan President Najibullah appeared to indicate that Afghanistan will continue receiving military aid from the Soviets even after all Soviet troops leave the country.

Shevardnadze flew to Kabul, Afghanistan's capital, Friday as Soviet officials continued to work for a political solution permitting them to withdraw their remaining 50,000 soldiers by Feb. 15.

Soviet diplomats have hinted the troops may not be completely out of Afghanistan by the mid-February deadline. That date was set by U.N.-brokered negotiations in Geneva in April 1988, and the Kremlin publicly committed itself to observing it.

Western diplomats, however,

say that the departure of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, which was halted last fall, has now resumed.

On Friday, 500 Soviet soldiers laden with equipment were seen lined up before transport planes at Kabul airport, waiting to fly home.

The Soviets have been seeking to involve members of the rebel factions fighting Najibullah's government in peace talks with government representatives. Mujahideen officials have said the Soviets are only trying to secure a place for Afghan Marxists in a new Afghan government.

Shevardnadze renewed the call for peace talks during his discussions with Najibullah, but also clearly aligned himself with the Afghan government, the TASS report indicated.

"The Soviet side confirmed its intention to continue playing an intermediary role in launching a general dialogue in Afghanistan," TASS said.

But it added: "The Soviet side confirmed its full support for the Afghan leadership's policies, and said the Soviet Union will continue extending the Republic of Afghanistan all-round assistance under treaties and agreements concluded by the two countries."

Since the Soviets committed themselves to an Afghan withdrawal, they have transferred millions of rubles, worth of armaments and military supplies to their Afghan allies, Western observers say.

The Afghan government and the Soviets blame the guerrillas, who have received U.S. assistance, for the continuing hostilities, saying they have refused to join in the ceasefire proclaimed by Najibullah Jan. 1.

TASS said both Shevardnadze and Najibullah backed Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's proposals on Afghanistan issued

last month at the United Nations — declaration of a ceasefire by Jan. 1 and the dispatch of a U.N. peacekeeping force pending formation of a broad-based government.

TASS said Moscow intended to continue acting as an intermediary in "launching a general dialogue in Afghanistan."

Yuli Vorontsov, the Soviet ambassador in Kabul, held talks with rebels in Saudi Arabia, Iran and Pakistan before their leaders announced there would be no more negotiations until all Soviet troops left the country.

Pullout 'speeded up'

British television reported Friday that Soviet troops had secretly stepped up their withdrawal from Afghanistan and will complete the pull-out by the end of the month, more than two weeks ahead of schedule.

Channel Four television news said Moscow was carrying out a fast, low-profile operation to pull out its remaining troops well

ahead of the Feb. 15 deadline.

Reporting from Kabul, Channel Four quoted informed sources as saying no more than 100 Soviet diplomats and advisers would remain after the withdrawal to support the Afghan government.

Rebel talks in Iran

Afghan rebels based in Pakistan have arrived in Tehran to discuss their country's future with Iran-based colleagues, Iran's IRNA news agency said Saturday.

Leaders of a seven-party Mujahideen rebel group arrived Friday from Peshawar in Pakistan for a seminar on strategic, cultural, economic and international aspects of the Afghan crisis, said IRNA.

Former Pakistani Foreign Minister Agha Shahi also arrived Friday for the two-day seminar opening Sunday, which will be attended by experts from France, Britain, Bangladesh and other countries, IRNA said.



EMBATTLED CITY — A view of Beirut from the eastern half of the Lebanese capital. The shell-ravaged buildings bear mute witness to the years of civil war in the country.

Hoss, Aoun invited to talks under Arab League umbrella

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The 22-member Arab League has invited the leaders of Lebanon's rival civilian and military governments for talks on preventing a formal partition of the war-torn country, two daily newspapers reported Saturday.

The Al Nahar and Al Safir newspapers said Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah made the offer as head of an Arab League committee seeking to resolve Lebanon's almost four-month-old political crisis.

The newspapers said that acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss, his rival Michel Aoun and Parliament Speaker Hussein Husseini were invited to attend an Arab League session at its headquarters in Tunis.

The newspapers gave no date for the meeting, and press spokesmen for the three Lebanese leaders refused to comment on the reports.

The Arab League committee, formed in Tunis Thursday, also includes the foreign ministers of Sudan, Tunisia, Algeria, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates along with Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi.

Lebanon has been without a president since Sept. 22, when parliament failed to elect a successor for President Amin Gemayel before his six-year term expired.

Minutes before he stepped down, Gemayel named Aoun, the army commander, to head an interim military government.

Muslims and leftists rejected the nomination and pledged alliance to the Hoss cabinet which governed under Gemayel.

Since then a power struggle between Hoss and Aoun has split parliament, the police and army along sectarian lines.

Syrian call

Arabs intent on saving Lebanon should start by driving Israeli forces out and eliminating their allies, Syria's semi-official Al Thawra newspaper said Saturday.

"The Arab role needed to save Lebanon from its crisis should start by freeing South Lebanon from the Israeli occupation and demolishing its supporters," Al Thawra said in an editorial.

U.N. procedural shift towards Palestine mission may set trend

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council's agreement to receive direct requests from the Palestine mission to participate in debates may set a trend for other observer missions here, an authority on U.N. practice said Friday.

Non-members North Korea, South Korea and Switzerland, for example, may reasonably expect similar treatment, he said. And the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) as well as other, non-governmental groups like the African National Congress may also seek the symbolic enhancement of status.

"The council would have to 'confab,' but it would be difficult to deny them," the source said.

Council members voted Wednesday to allow the Palestine

mission, formerly of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to address their president directly.

Long-standing practice in the 15-nation body required any non-member of the United Nations, including non-governmental organisations, to go through a council member with a request to take part in its work, without voting rights.

The United States cast the only negative vote. Britain, France and Canada abstained.

The source speculated that the Palestinians' next step might be to seek to address informational material, on such issues as the West Bank, without having to go through a third party.

After the council vote broke new ground the Palestinian representative, Nasser Al Kidwa,

claimed an important victory. During private consultations, the United States was said to have rejected a compromise proposal that the Palestine mission be allowed to make a direct request to the council president only in conjunction with a supporting document from a member state.

The source, who did not want to be quoted by name, stressed that the council action did not imply recognition of a state of Palestine. Nonetheless, it must be seen as part of a "huge shift in attitudes," he said.

"Another little bit has fallen into place," the source said. In explaining Britain's abstention vote, British Ambassador Crispin Tickell referred to Palestine, but British sources said this was simply a courtesy.

Klibi calls for EEC pressure on Israel

MADRID (Agencies) — Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi has urged Spain and the other 11 members of the European Economic Community (EEC) to press Israel to accept direct talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to bring peace to the Middle East.

At a news conference here, late Friday, Klibi said that the Palestine National Council (PNC) decision in November to authorise peace talks with Israel and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's renunciation of terrorism in a speech last month in Sweden "constitute a new opportunity for peace in the region that is absolutely positive."

Klibi arrived in Madrid Friday for talks with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, King Juan Carlos and a working lunch with Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez attended by all Arab ambassadors in Madrid.

"The EEC should deploy all its diplomatic forces to convince Israel to enter into direct talks with the Palestinians at an international peace conference," Klibi said.

Arafat's rejection of terrorism in Sweden led to a U.S. decision to open "substantive" talks with the PLO in direct diplomatic contacts.

"We believe it is the duty of all friends of peace to convince Israel it must take advantage of the present positive situation to enter talks with the PLO to put an end to the conflict in the region," Klibi said.

Spain assumed the six-month rotating EEC presidency Jan. 1.

At the news conference with Fernandez Ordonez, Klibi said he had made it clear that the Arab League will insist:

— That all efforts be made to arrange an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of the PLO and

that of the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council;

— That the Israeli-occupied territories come under the interim administration of the U.N. to guarantee the security of the Palestinian people, "who are facing all types of repression by armed forces of Israel";

— That Israel withdraw its armed forces from southern Lebanon, where it has set up a buffer "security zone", as a condition to put an end to the country's decades-long internal conflict.

Klibi said the present positive climate and recent developments in the region provide "an especially clear situation that is unprecedented."

"Palestine is of great importance to both the Arab and European Communities because conflict directly affects the security of each of them," Klibi said.

Klibi praised Spain "as a traditional Arab friend who knows and maintains historical

links with our people."

Spain has long defended the Palestinian right to a homeland.

Spain established formal diplomatic relations with Israel in January 1986 and at the same time upgraded the Madrid PLO office to "a level similar to that of a diplomatic mission," Fernandez Ordonez said then.

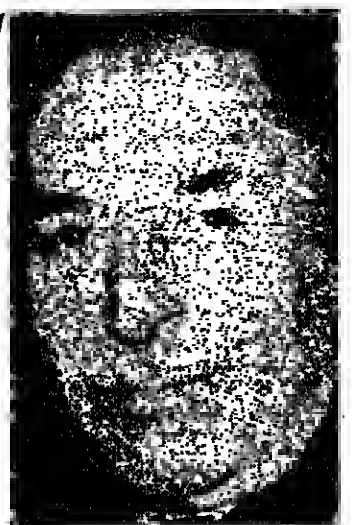
Spain joined the EEC two weeks after it established relations with Israel.

Greece, France and Spain are representing the EEC in contacts with Israel, the PLO and the United States aimed at pressing for an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The EEC drive was to get underway Saturday with a visit to Israel by Fernandez Ordonez, who is also due to travel next month to Syria, Egypt and Jordan.

Arafat is due to visit Madrid Jan. 27 for talks with the three EEC foreign ministers.

Klibi was strongly critical of



Chadi Klibi

Israel's resistance to PLO overtures in the text of a dinner speech Friday.

"In order for the great steps taken by the Palestinians not to continue to receive constant rejection by Israeli leaders... the international community must spare no effort to achieve peace in the Middle East," he said.

Libya offers talks with Britain

LONDON (Agencies) — Libya's ambassador to the United Nations called Saturday for talks between his country and Britain to improve relations and to discuss Libyan support for the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

"We are ready to get together with them (the British government), to sit together with them at whatever level they want, to restart the negotiations we have started in the past," Ambassador Ali Treiki said from New York in a statement.

"We can discuss all the problems including the IRA problem. If the British government is serious, let us start a new page. Let us sit together and solve the problems."

A Foreign Office spokesman in London, who by government policy cannot be identified, said "there are no plans for talks with Libya."

Earlier in the week, Home Secretary Douglas Hurd said Britain had evidence that Libya supplied arms and semtex explosive to the IRA.

Treiki said Libya had "shown certain political support to the IRA" but, asked whether his country supplied it arms and he said: "I am not really in a position to say what sort of support we are giving the IRA."

MIDDLE-EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli police arrest Red Sea paddler

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli police Saturday arrested a Swede who paddled a kayak from Aqaba to Eilat. Police said the man had offered no explanation for crossing the border but had apparently been swept into Israeli waters by high seas. They said they were still questioning the man, aged about 30, and had not decided what to do with him.

Iran braces for locust battle

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran has formed a task force to combat an expected invasion of crop-devouring locusts from Central Africa, the Islamic Republic News Agency said Saturday. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted a task force official in southeastern Bushehr province as saying: "We predict that from about mid-January to mid-March, the locusts will swarm over our southern border areas." The official said a few, mostly young, locusts were spotted in the past two days but that the problem was not yet serious, IRNA said. The agency quoted the official as saying there was no need to start spraying insecticides for the moment but that locust-spraying planes were on alert in southwestern Shiraz province.

Cairo appeals ban on Falcon Crest

CAIRO (AP) — A court overstepped its jurisdiction in finding the American television series Falcon Crest too degenerate for Egyptian screens, the government says in an appeal. Anyway, the state's lawyer said Saturday, the plaintiff should have switched off his set if the programme offended him. "We expect to win," said Ragaei Ahmad Issa, head of the technical department at the state litigation authority. "We expect the (appeal) court to rule that the ban order was outside the jurisdiction of the court." He said the appeal filed this month also alleges other procedural errors and the substantive claim that the provincial judge who banned the series should not have accepted at face value the plaintiff's word that the series is offensive. The banning order emanated last month from a court in the Nile Delta town of Shihin Al Kom in a case brought against the state-owned television and radio authority by a private citizen, lawyer Mustafa Hamed Al Khalifa.

'Passports for sale' diplomat loses appeal

DUBLIN (R) — A former Irish embassy official at the centre of "passports for sale to the Middle East" allegations lost a high court appeal Friday against extradition to Britain. But Kevin McDonald is unlikely to be returned immediately to London to face trial as his

lawyer now intends taking the case to Ireland's supreme court. A British newspaper alleged in 1987 that McDonald, 39, was selling passports to Middle East "clients" from the Irish embassy in London. He was accused in extradition warrants of conspiring to obtain Irish passports by deception. The Dublin government has waived his diplomatic immunity.

Sudanese MPs to quit Islamic party

KHARTOUM (R) — Three members of Sudan's parliament are to quit the fundamentalist National Islamic Front (NIF) and join the opposition Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), the news agency SUNA reported Friday. It did not say why they were leaving the NIF, a partner in the ruling coalition. But newspapers have quoted them as saying they support a peace accord signed between the DUP and the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army in November in Addis Ababa. The NIF described the agreement as a sellout. The DUP pulled out of the coalition Dec. 28 after parliament failed to endorse the accord, aimed at ending five years of civil war in south Sudan.

Tunisian Islamic leader sees danger

TUNIS (R) — A leader of Tunisia's militant Islamic movement said in an interview published Friday that some of its members could be driven to extremism if it was excluded from public life. Sheikh Abdul Fattah Mourou, secretary-general of the Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI), told the weekly magazine Le Maghreb: "If various political groups are allowed to take part (in public life) with the exception of the Islamic movement, that would be a major reason for extremism." Mourou, who returned in September after more than two years in exile, was appointed Monday to Tunisia's Supreme Islamic Council, a government body which advises on religious affairs. He interpreted his appointment as a first step towards normalising the status of the MTI, which was persecuted under former President Habib Bourguiba and is not recognised as a legitimate political party.

French group seeks \$3.2b Libyan job

PARIS (R) — A French construction group has said it was competing with South Korean and Indian firms for a Libyan contract to build a water pipeline which Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi calls the "Great man-made river." The value of the contract for the 800-kilometre line is estimated at around \$3.2 billion. Qadhafi has elevated the project into a national priority. It aims to pipe water from vast natural underground reservoirs deep in the Sahara desert to densely populated coastal areas where water sources have been severely depleted.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

19:45.....Varieties programme in Arabic

20:00.....News in Arabic

20:30.....Perfect Strangers

21:10.....Documentary: "The Silk Road"

21:30.....News in English

22:30.....The Equaliser

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30.....Koraa

15:40.....Programme review

15:45.....Children's programmes

17:10.....Football match

18:00.....News summary in Arabic

18:05.....Local programme

18:15.....Local series

17:05.....Programme review

17:10.....Local programme

17:20.....Variety programme

17:30.....News in Arabic

17:40.....Arabic series

17:50.....Programme review

18:00.....Local programme

21:30.....Variety programme

22:00.....News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00.....La Baby Sister

18:30.....L'Ecole des Pans

19:00.....News in French

19:15.....A documentary

19:30.....News in Hebrew

22:35.....Varieties programme in Arabic

23:00.....News in Arabic

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23:00.....News in Arabic

23:30.....Perfect Strangers

24:10.....Documentary: "The Silk Road"

24:30.....News in English

25:30.....The Equaliser

PRAYER TIMES

05:11.....Fajr

06:32.....(Sunrise) Dhuhr

11:45.....Dhuhr

14:24.....'Asr

16:58.....Maghrib

18:19.....Isha

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terranova Church, Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

WEATHER

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Ajlouni receives honorary certificate

ROME (Petra) — The Rome-based Academy for Tourism in Europe, Africa and Asia countries has awarded former Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni an honorary certificate in recognition of his valuable contributions to promote tourism in Jordan.

The award was received in Rome on Ajlouni's behalf by Jordan's ambassador to Italy at a ceremony held on the occasion. The academy strives to promote the tourism industry and develop coordination among various tourist organisations worldwide.

Academy members include



Zuhair Ajlouni

prominent international personalities and its certificates are awarded to key figures in the tourism industry. Ajlouni became minister of state for cabinet affairs in the recent government reshuffle.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

DAJANI RECEIVES UAE ENVOY: Interior Minister Rajai Dajani Saturday received United Arab Emirates (UAE) Ambassador in Amman Mohammad Jassem Ali. Discussions dealt with aspects of the existing cooperation between the two countries. (Petra)

HAI HASSAN MEETS QATARI ENVOY: Transport and Telecommunications Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan Saturday received new Qatari Ambassador in Amman Mubarak Naser Al Kuwari. They discussed bilateral relations and means to bolster them particularly in the field of transport and telecommunications. (Petra)

PAKISTANI DELEGATION ENDS VISIT: A delegation representing the Income Tax Department in Pakistan left Amman following a four-day visit here. Its members held talks with government officials and signed an agreement designed to avoid dual taxation procedures between the two countries national airlines.

CIVIL DEFENCE IN AJLOUN: The Civil Defence Committee in the Ajloun district Saturday held a meeting to review arrangements to deal with any emergency as a result of rain and snow in the current winter season. The meeting, attended by civil defence officials and representatives of local councils, decided to set up an operations room and take precautionary measures, such as cleaning culverts, to avoid flooding of streets and homes. The committee issued an appeal to residents of low lying areas to move to safer ground or take extra precautions to avoid danger. Ajloun is a northern mountainous area where normally the greatest amount of rain and snow falls.

EXHIBITION IN MAFRAQ: A two-day exhibition of energy-related equipment was opened in Mafraq's energy and electricity information advisory centre. On display also are sets of instructions and guidebooks for the public on measures to save energy.

SEMINAR ON INFORMATION: Dr. Ribhi Mustafa Alayyan will represent University of Jordan at the five-day second Arab seminar on information, scheduled to be held in Tunisia on Jan. 17. Alayyan will present a working paper on the transfer of information to the Arab countries and the Jordanian experience in this regard. The seminar will discuss working papers on information and the Arab countries' experience in this regard. (Petra)

WORKSHOP HELD AT NHF: A workshop was held at Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Saturday on improvement of social life and dissemination of social ideas. Present were the directors of the projects and programmes which NHF executes. (Petra)

PROJECTS IN ZARQA: The Water and Sewage Authority in Zarqa Governorate has finished the first and second stages of water and sewage projects in Zarqa and Ruseifah at the cost of JD 12.485 million. Sources said that replacement and improvement of water networks are underway in Zarqa. Meanwhile Zarqa Governor Id Al Qatameh Saturday toured a number of Zarqa quarters, and inspected various ongoing projects. (Petra)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFICIENCY: Fifteen directors and officials from financial and industrial institutions in Jordan, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and North Yemen are taking part in a seminar held at the Jordan Administrative Institute on developing administrative proficiency. The seven-day seminar is designed to explain the administrative process, to highlight the importance of relationships in administration, and to point out the importance of time. The seminar includes delivering lectures in various fields related to administration. (Petra)

TAWJIHI EXAM MARKING: Education Ministry sources have reported that the correction committees will finish correcting the Tawjihi examination papers for all sections in a few days. According to Sawt Al Shaab, calculations and storage of the results of the first semester in computers will take place next month. Over 58,000 students sat for the examination which ended on Jan. 11.

ABDUL JABER GETS U.N. POST: The U.N. Secretary General has decided to appoint former Minister of Labour Dr. Taysir Abdul Jaber to the post of executive secretary general of the Baghdad-based U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. Abdul Jaber will leave Amman for New York Sunday to attend the meetings of senior U.N. officials which will be held early next week. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- * The Iraqi Cultural Week which includes an exhibition by the Iraqi artist Salam Al Madangheh and an exhibition of children's paintings and children's literary and cultural books, at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * A plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Kamal, Samar Al Sabe' and Nibal Saleh at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- * An exhibition of photos and videos on "La Defense", a new district in Paris which became a symbol of architectural creativity, at the French Cultural Centre.
- * Yugoslav graphic art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition of energy conservation equipment at Al Mafraq Industrial School.

BAZAAR

- * A charity bazaar that includes wooden handicrafts, embroideries, artificial flowers, children's toys and cultural books at Ala'a Centre, Hittin Refugee Camp.

CONCERT

- * A recital by the Italian accordionist Gervasio Marcognoni at the main theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

FILM

- * Two documentaries on the life and work of Martin Luther King at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- * A lecture by Amideast supervisors on "What to consider when applying for admission to a U.S. university" at the American Centre — 5:00 p.m.

Jordan to mark Arbor Day today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arbor Day ceremonies will be held in Jordan Sunday, and the main event will be organised at the grounds of the new Radio Jordan Transmission Station at Kharraneh some 70 kilometres east of Amman.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture, which organises Arbor Day ceremonies, said that at least 500 dunums of land in the Kharraneh region will be planted with tree saplings on the occasion.

The spokesman, Tayseer Shabat, said that other ceremonies

will be held at Muwaqqar, south east of here, Naour and Wadi Seer, west of Amman, as well as at schools and around public organisations.

Shabat said that at least 120 dunums of land will be planted with trees in the current season. Director of the Forestry Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, Ghaib Abu Arrabi said that Jordan's 13 nurseries together produce some nine million forest tree saplings annually, half of which is used by government agencies and the rest is

distributed to organisations and individuals free of charge.

Jordan's forest regions are limited and the total are covered with forest trees is estimated at 685,000 dunums, less than eight per cent of the total area of the Kingdom, Abu Arrabi said.

His Majesty King Hussein attended Arbor Day celebrations at Abu Nuseir in January 1988 where he inaugurated a public garden set up by the Greater Amman Municipality and took part in tree planting along with the local residents.

Health Ministry to refer patients to different Jordanian hospitals

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Health will, from now on, refer patients to hospitals located in different parts of the country including Jordan University Hospital and the King Hussein Medical Centre, instead of the private hospitals, according to Health Ministry officials Saturday.

The decision was taken in a view of the fact that all hospitals, including those in the Amman region are now operated by the National Medical Institution (NMI) and not by the Health Ministry, the officials said.

The Health Ministry had in 1987 concluded an agreement with a number of private hospitals in Amman to admit patients for whom there are no beds or facilities at the time when they need treatment in the government hospitals.

The officials noted that the NMI can absorb all patients and distribute them to hospitals inside

or outside Amman and there will be no problem in this process.

Only government employees and their families enjoyed the privilege of being referred to the private hospitals whenever there was congestion at the government hospitals, under the 1987 agreement, with special arrangements for pay for such services, according to the officials.

They were commenting on a news report in Al Rai' Arabic daily Saturday which said that the minister of health has terminated an agreement with the private hospitals to provide treatment to the employees.

Last year, the health minister said Jordan spends JD 70 million annually on national health services through hospitals and health centres.

But a detailed study on the cost of operating government hospitals conducted by (NMI), revealed that JD 80 million will be needed for such services.

The publication of the study, which coincided with the takeover by NMI of hospitals in May 1988, said that the existing hospitals will be developed in two stages and small-size hospitals will be established in a number of regions.

When the NMI was created, its Director General Daoud Hanania, announced that the institution will retain its financial and administrative independence and it will maintain close coordination with the Health Ministry, medical schools and the private sector.

The NMI, Hanania added, will focus its attention on improving hospital management and providing integrated services to the public in emergencies, natural disasters and wars.

Hanania also said that the NMI will supervise health security schemes, now adopted by the Health Ministry and the Royal Jordanian Armed Forces, and will later look into the prospect of unifying them into one system.



Advanced course opens for PSD officers

SOUTH SHUNEH (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Saturday opened an advanced training course for police officers at its training ground in Kafrin near South Shuneh. A total of 300 officers, who are taking part in the course, heard a speech by Lt.-Col. Salman Al Ma'atah,

commander of the PSD corp, in which he outlined the stages of training for the officers. He said the officers will acquire various field skills, the use of different types of weapons, physical exercises, mountain climbing and hand to hand fighting in the course of their training.

Iraq-Jordan transport firm begins expansion talks today

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The board of directors of the Iraq-Jordan Land Transport Company (IJLTC) will open a meeting here Sunday under the co-chairmanship of ministers of transport and telecommunications in the two countries.

The Jordanian side to the meeting, which arrived in Baghdad Saturday, included the Ministry of Transport's Secretary General Mahmoud Al Talbouni, director of the Jordanian Ports Corporation Eid Al Fayed, and Deputy Director of IJLTC Suleiman Al Hababeh.

Sunday's board meeting will pave the way for Monday's general assembly meeting which will discuss the company's plans for the

1989 and will review achievements in the past year.

IJLTC Director General Jamil Ibrahim said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the meeting will also chart plans for expansion programmes and the transportation of goods between Iraq and Jordan on the one hand, and between the two countries and the rest of the Arab World on the other.

Ibrahim said the general assembly will look into the prospect of modernising the company's fleet over the coming few years, opening new offices for the company outside Jordan and Iraq, especially in Kuwait, Turkey and Singapore.

The development and modernisation of the company's

Aqaba workshops to cope with the growing volume of work and the increasing fleet of trucks, as well as an estimated budget for the new year will also be discussed at the coming meeting, Ibrahim noted.

He said last year the company made a JD 2 million in net profit and that the company's 900-truck fleet transported 808,000 tonnes of Iraqi goods from Aqaba to Iraq in the first eight months of 1988 alone.

In the past year, 40 of the company's trucks were assigned to help transport Jordanian phosphate from Al Hassa and Al Abiad mines in southern Jordan to Aqaba for export.

Shi'ite clerics launch peace bid

(Continued from page 1)

A source close to Hizbollah said Friday about 150 of its fighters had been sent from the eastern Bekaa Valley to Jubah, ready for a large-scale assault.

Amal is striving to oust Hizbollah from its last major southern stronghold, from which it mounts attacks on Israel and the "security zone." Amal opposes such attacks in case they provoke another Israeli invasion.

The meeting between Fadlallah

and Shamseddine, which Shi'ite sources said could have been arranged by Tebran, followed strong Iranian condemnation of the fighting which has pitted brother against brother.

Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has said Tehran is disgusted by the battles.

Talks in Damascus earlier this week between Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Besharat and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad failed to halt the fighting.

Reagan, Bush fight subpoenas

(Continued from page 1)

may kill foreign governments in the way they deal with the president now and in the future," he said.

Bolton asked the judge to order North to prove that the testimony by Reagan and Bush would be crucial to his defence

and that the evidence could not be obtained elsewhere.

Reagan has answered written questions from the Iran-contra special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh while Bush has been interviewed by the prosecutors.

Waldegrave reminds

(Continued from page 1)

the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, the PLO and the Arab countries.

Asked if Britain was inviting Arafat to visit London, Waldegrave said: "Certainly if such a visit would take forward practical steps... there's no problem in principle."

At the start of the meeting the British minister told Arafat it was a historic occasion.

He then picked up an embroidered Palestinian cushion and said: "I won't be happy till I can walk down the street and buy things like this, Palestinian things, in a place you call your own."

"There's a small shop in London..." one of Arafat's aides said. "No, we want to buy them in a place you think is your own," Waldegrave interjected.

Committee completes review of current school curricula

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A specialised committee from the Ministry of Education has completed an overall review of the current school curricula in all subjects in implementation of resolutions taken by the first national educational conference held here in 1987, according to the Ministry's Secretary General Munther Al Masri.

The committee has compiled new curricula for the schools which will be submitted to the Higher Education Council by the end of January, Masri said at a press conference held Saturday.

He said that once the council has approved the new curricula, new textbooks will be prepared for the students at all the school stages and the whole process will be completed in five years from now.

Masri referred to the training and certification of teachers to practice their profession and said that the ministry was working on a long-term plan to provide prop-

er qualifications to Jordanian teachers.

Teachers should have a university degree in order to practice teaching at schools and they should enjoy good character and strong personalities, Masri noted.

Masri said to provide qualification to teachers, the ministry, in cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education and Jordanian universities, has now set up an advanced teachers training college in Amman. The college will raise the skills and proficiency of teachers, Masri noted.

He said the ministry intends to open similar colleges in Irbid and

Karak probably during the next scholastic year.

Referring to rented buildings, which now serve as schools, Masri said new buildings are needed to end the present two shift system, which is introduced because of lack of sufficient space, and to give better facilities and atmosphere for the students.

The ministry was continuing the process of building schools in the rural regions in cooperation with local municipal councils and private organisations, to meet the growing student-population which now runs at the rate of 30,000 annually.

He said the ministry needs to set up at least 40 new schools each year to cope with the increase in the number of students.

In May last year, the minister of education said 176 schools will be set up at different regions of which 21 were being built in the Amman region.

Seminar on infectious diseases opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A six-day training seminar on investigations into infectious diseases was opened at the Ministry of Health's Primary Health Care Department Saturday by Minister of Health Zuhair Al Masri.

Participants in the seminar are doctors and specialists employed by the ministry at the primary

health centres in different governorates.

The seminar, organised in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the University of Jordan, aims at updating the doctors knowledge to promote their efficiency and skill in monitoring and controlling the spread of infectious dis-

eases in their respective regions, according to a Ministry of Health official.

He said the participants will bear lectures on infectious diseases, food poisoning, data analysis and ways to conduct research and studies on contagious diseases in the country.

JVA to replace open water works with pressurised pipeline system

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) is currently changing all open water works in the Jordan Valley into pressurised system, with water running in pipes, to reach its destination in the fields with a minimum loss because of evaporation, JVA Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani said in an interview published Saturday.

He said the present open network was installed nearly 25 years ago and has become obsolete in view of the loss of precious water needed for irrigation.

By the end of 1994 the whole system will be changed and at least 132,000 dunums of land will be receiving irrigation through the new system, Bani Hani said in the interview with Al Dustour Arabic daily.

In its drive to provide additional amounts of water for the Jordan Valley fields, the JVA is going ahead with plans to construct dams that hold back rain water which is collected in reservoirs that supply the water to the fields, Bani Hani noted.

He said the existing dams now have nearly 80 million cubic metres of rain water stored and more is expected to be stored this winter.

The JVA plans to build Al Wabdhah Dam, which will have a total storage capacity of 230 million cubic metres of water, and Al

Karameh Dam in the Jordan Valley to store up to 55 million cubic metres before 1995, Bani Hani pointed out.

He referred to Al Wabdhah Dam by saying that a meeting will be held by financiers of the project by the end of the coming month to review the plans and to agree on a general unified plan for construction.

The meeting will be a follow-up to that which was held last October when representatives of 13 government and public financial organisations discussed the project and expressed readiness to provide funds for the construction of the dam, Bani Hani added.

He said special interest in the project was demonstrated by the World Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

Most of the water to be stored behind the Wabdhah Dam will be used by Jordan to irrigate Jordan Valley fields and nearly 75 per cent of the electric power, to be produced by the power station at the site of the dam, will be supplied to Syria in accordance with a Jordanian-Syrian agreement that paved the way for the project to start, Bani Hani pointed out.

He said the soil in the Jordan

Valley is rich and once it receives sufficient amounts of water, greater amounts of vegetables and fruit can be produced.

"Development of Jordan Valley agriculture is bound to stem the movement of people from rural to urban regions and help maintain a fair distribution of population in the Kingdom," Bani Hani said.

The housing projects being carried out in the Jordan Valley by JVA and the water irrigation projects and dams being set up there have been instrumental in raising the number of the population from 64,000 in 1973 to 160,000 in 1988, and the increasing number of services and schools for children in the region brought about an increase of students from 12,000 to 40,000 in the same period, Bani Hani explained.

Drinking water in 1973 reached 10 per cent of the population where as now it reaches 100 per cent, while electric power which also was supplied to 10 per cent of the Jordan Valley inhabitants now reaches up to 90 per cent, Bani Hani added.

In the interview, Bani Hani also dwelt on projects designed to organise tourism, especially in the winter season, and the current efforts to rid the area of waste and manure where insects breed.



The Arabian oryx at the Shomari Wildlife Reserve (File photo)

Oman conference to discuss repatriation of Arabian oryx

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will take part in an international conference to be held in Oman early next month to discuss a pan-Arab strategy to repatriate the Arabian oryx and the management of breeding the species.

Head of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature Anis Muasher and the society's Director General Maher Abu Ja'far will represent Jordan at the week-long conference, and will present a working paper on reinstating the Arabian oryx in their original habitat in Jordan following an absence of nearly 60 years, and the management of the Shomari Wildlife Reserve where Arabian

oryx were brought in 1979.

According to the Jordanian paper the Shomari reserve now has a total of 104 heads of oryx which came to the country in the form of gifts from Arab states.

The paper points out that the rate of multiplication of oryx in Jordan is the highest in the world reaching up to 28 per cent, and calls on reserve worldwide to exchange breeds to ensure longevity for the species.

The delegates will discuss sources for financing projects pertaining to the development of oryx and research papers from Oman and other countries.

Apart from Jordan, delegates

will come from Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, the United States, the United Kingdom and a number of European states.

The 230-square-kilometre Shomari reserve, which was established in 1975, lies within the Azraq Oasis which sits astride the main Jordan-Saudi Arabia Highway.

Last October, Abu Ja'far took part in an international seminar on national parks and wildlife reserves in semi-arid regions of the world held in Arizona, USA, where the subject of Arabian oryx along with the other forms of wildlife and management of reserves was discussed.

Jordan Times

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For Shamir's pleasure

WHEN Arabs used to shun Israelis and refuse as much as look them in the eye for fear of being labelled as traitors, the Israeli officialdom was first to jump on such occasions and describe Arabs with all sorts of political and psychological adjectives that tended to demean the Arab sense of chivalry and common sense.

And when the Palestinian Arabs including the PLO officialdom have started to erase all complexes and anxieties regarding communications with the enemy as illustrated by the ongoing Paris debate on Middle East peace, the Israeli government of all parties was the first to forbid under the penalty of the law the participating Israeli members of the Knesset to even sit side-by-side with PLO officials. Whatever happened to the Israeli logic that the Arab side was bombarded with for decades stipulating that only direct contacts and open dialogue and communication would assure a speedy resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict? It is indeed a calamity if this cycle of refusing to engage one's enemies in as much as a dialogue under international aegis continues unabated to shift from one side of the Arab-Israeli equation into the other.

The Paris forum on Middle East peace could have served as a testing ground for direct Israeli-PLO communication, which in turn could have served as a stepping stone into the projected international peace conference on the Middle East under the aegis of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. But alas, instead of achieving this important objective, the Israeli Knesset members were forced to bow to a 1986 Israeli law which bars meetings with members of the PLO and avoided all semblances of direct contact with the Palestinian delegation attending the Paris meeting. Israeli leaders can sigh with relief that not even a handshake or eye contact between the Israeli Knesset members and the PLO members had occurred. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir can sleep with comfort now that a whole empty seat separated the Israelis from the Palestinians. That empty seat has been filled with the current Israeli illogical perspective, Shamir will be pleased to know.



ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily Saturday launched a strong criticism of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir for his stubbornness with regard to the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The paper said that Shamir's call on the United States not to pursue the dialogue with the PLO is an evil one aimed at preventing any constructive step towards the establishment of peace. Shamir's latest statements in which he showed total disregard to the projected international conference will not bring about any change in the international community's support for the Palestinians and their just cause, the paper noted. It said that Israel can never escape from the mounting pressure against it from various nations and unless it accepts the idea of the international conference and gives up its intransigence, it will find itself totally discarded by the community of nations. Shamir has been warned by the European parliamentarians visiting the Middle East and by European statesmen that a real change in Israel's policy must come about in order that Israel can live in security and peace, the paper added. It concluded by saying that the international community is now more convinced than at any time in the past that Israel's intransigence remains the stumbling block in the path of peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily comments Saturday on the situation in the Middle East region and the international conference. Ibrahim Sakikha says that the projected conference is now being demanded by all nations as they see in it a forum where the conflicting parties can meet and be helped by other states to achieve peace. Israel remains the only country opposing the idea of this conference and the U.S. remains the only other power that backs Israel's views in this regard, the writer says. Ever since the occupation of the Arab territories in 1967, and the adoption by the Security Council of Resolution 242, the world community has been demanding Israel to abide by the international legitimacy and calling on it to implement the resolution to arrive at peace with its neighbours. Sakikha adds. Since the resolution was passed in 1967 the Middle East has witnessed numerous developments and the Europeans and the Americans have offered several initiatives, the writer points out. But he says that the current overwhelming support for the conference idea and the implementation of resolution 242 reflects the fact that this resolution remains the most feasible way out of the deadlock and one that can indeed lead to peace.

Al Dastour daily commented Saturday on the British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe's statements in which he urged Israel to take a constructive step in response to the Palestinian bid for peace. The paper said that Howe's statement, which came on the eve of a high level meeting between Britain and the PLO, demonstrates the new constructive orientation by the British government to help find a lasting settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict. There is no doubt that such favourable development is a source of welcome and delight for the Arab countries which had been urging the Europeans to take a serious step to bring about a settlement in the Middle East, the paper noted.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Realistic budget if adhered to

THE new budget for the year 1989 could not be understood and properly evaluated by simple mathematical comparison with the figures of the past year unless we take into account that the domestic purchasing power of the Jordanian dinar in 1989 will be around 20 per cent below that of 1988, and that the prices of foreign currencies will be 40 per cent higher.

With this in mind, we can judge the overall size of the new budget, in comparison with the previous year budget, at only 1 per cent lower in nominal terms, which is a minor reduction, but 20 per cent lower in real purchasing power, which is a substantial cut

Current and recurring expenditures were 4.2 per cent higher in absolute figures, but 15 per cent lower in real terms. This major cut in current expenses is possible as long as the major part of this section of the budget is comprised of salaries, wages, interest, and rents which remained constant.

Domestic revenues, on the other hand, were estimated to be up by 1 per cent, quite a moderate growth if taken in nominal value, but when the depreciation of the dinar is taken into account, it can be easily concluded that this estimation was extremely conservative. We have every reason to speculate that the actual domestic revenues will exceed the budget estimates by 10

to 15 per cent.

Even customs duties on imports were estimated to be 12.5 per cent less than what was actually realised in 1988. One of course appreciates that the volume of foreign imports will decline in 1989, not only because certain commodities were banned, which used to form 7 to 10 per cent in value of all commodity imports, but also because the higher price of foreign exchange and the scarcity of foreign currencies should naturally cause imports to drop. However, I don't expect imports to decline by more than 30 per cent under the impact of those two factors combined. Since customs duties form a per-

centage of the cost of imports as calculated in current prices, the remaining 70 per cent of the imports will be more than sufficient to yield the same revenue of last year in nominal terms. I expect the proceeds of imports duty in dinars to rise rather than fall compared to the figure achieved last year.

Readers of the budget also noted that Arab and foreign aid was estimated to be around 40 per cent above the level of 1988. This assumed improvement took observers by surprise. They wonder why the government should expect more Arab aid despite the fact that the 10-year commitment of Baghdad summit has

expired by the end of 1988. In fact the Arab and foreign aid was estimated at the same low level of 1988, only lower exchange rate of the dinar would make the same amount in dollars yield 40 per cent more in dinars when the Central Bank will buy the aid dollars from the treasury.

The other side of this fact is that debt service in interest and installments will cost more, not only because new obligations are becoming due for repayment, but also because the cost of servicing foreign debts should cost 40 per cent more in terms of local currency.

In general, I can safely say that the revenue side of the budget

was not in any way overstated as used to be the case in the past just to show a lower deficit. The contrary is true, and the revenues, especially domestic revenues, were on the low side. If the government adhered strictly to the allocations for current and capital expenditure as the minister of finance solemnly avowed, I think that the final deficit will be much less than the budget allowed. I hasten to add my belief that the government will adhere this year to the limits specified in the budget, and will not exceed the allocations. Any excess, after the crisis of 1988, will be an act of financial impudence that no responsible government will commit.

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Concern about hormones stirs U.S. demand for 'natural' meat

By Nelson Graves
Reuters

WASHINGTON — U.S. consumer advocates and specialty meat producers say concern about growth hormones is stimulating consumer demand for meat from animals raised without these substances.

On January 1 the European Community (EC) closed its doors to imports of meat from animals that had been given growth hormones, widely used on U.S. cattle ranches. Community officials said they were responding to consumer concerns about dangers associated with eating meat containing hormones.

The U.S. government, which maintains the hormones pose no risk when used appropriately, hit back by effectively blocking imports of seven types of EC foodstuffs, valued at \$100 million a year.

Publicity surrounding the U.S.-

EC trade row appears to have boosted U.S. sales of hormone-free meat products.

Mel Coleman, president of Coleman Natural Beef Inc of Denver, said sales of his "natural" beef, which totalled \$20 million in 1988, have risen 20 per cent since January 1. "The consumer interest has increased dramatically," he said.

Coleman sold 19,000 head of cattle last year, all hormone and chemical-free. Major supermarket chains in at least four states, including over 150 stores in New York and Massachusetts, carry his meat, as do health food stores in 25 states. Coleman expects to double sales by June 1990.

Ray Field, a meat scientist at the University of Wyoming, said a marketing study he conducted in 1986 and 1987 showed "a significant proportion of people buying beef are interested in buying beef that's lean and stimulant-free."

The study, ordered by the Wyoming state legislature, involved observing how consumers in San Francisco reacted when given a choice between "typical supermarket beef" and a leaner brand advertised as "low-fat and natural" from Wyoming cattle fed no hormones or antibiotics. Field said.

NEWS ANALYSIS

When the two sorts of meat were offered at the same price, two of every three shoppers picked the leaner beef, Field said. Even when the Wyoming brand was priced 25 per cent higher, a quarter of the consumers bought the leaner brand.

"Whether hormones are harmful or not, the fact remains that a number of people are interested in buying stimulant-free beef," he said.

Berwent Renshaw, EC agri-

cultural counsellor here, said he has received over a dozen inquiries from U.S. producers and states interested in selling hormone-free beef to Europe and asking under what circumstances the EC would admit the beef.

Karen Coble, spokesman for the national Pork Producers Council, said the EC has agreed to admit until May shipments of U.S. pork and horsemeat produced without hormones. A team of EC officials is expected to arrive later this year to establish that no hormones are used in the production of those meats.

The food safety and inspection system of the U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) has balked at implementing a system for certifying that beef carcasses come from animals that were never given hormones.

Such a system would require monitoring animals through their entire growth cycle and would prove extremely costly, USDA

officials said.

In addition, a decision to provide such certification would undermine U.S. efforts to persuade the EC to reverse the ban, Mark Gustafson of the U.S. meat export federation said.

Gustafson said U.S. specialty producers were unable to provide the volume of hormone-free meat needed to fill the shortfall in U.S. exports to the EC, and their products cost 25 cents a pound more than competing meats offered by other countries.

He also disputed claims that U.S. sales of hormone-free beef will soar due to health concerns. "People don't want to go into a supermarket and pay \$7.10 for a steak," he said.

Two of the best known U.S. consumer groups support the EC ban and are expected soon to sign a declaration issued by a European group advocating the ban.

But both American organisations stop short of calling for a

ban in the United States.

"We feel the EC action is a justified response to consumer concerns," said Dan Howell of the Centre for Science in the Public Interest. "But we're not advocates of a ban in the United States." However, Howell said his group was promoting greater consumption of hormone-free beef.

Ellen Haas, executive director of Public Voice for Food and Health Policy, said: "The science is still out on the issue."

Haas said there is little need for a U.S. ban on the use of hormones because the U.S. regulatory system is more rigorous than the EC's.

Howell said more information was needed to support a call for a ban in the United States.

Haas and Howell agreed there was little chance that Congress or U.S. regulatory agencies would move to tighten restrictions on use of the hormones.

Paris conference pledges to ban chemical weapons

PARIS — Delegates to the Paris Conference on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons have condemned the use of chemical arms and affirmed their commitment not to use such arms.

The final declaration of the Paris talks, released January 11, also stressed the necessity of concluding, "at an early date, a convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons, and on their destruction."

Following is the text of the final declaration of the Conference on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which was adopted by consensus in Paris January 11:

The representatives of states participating in the Conference on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, bringing together states parties to the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and other interested states in Paris from 7 to 11 January 1989, solemnly declare the following:

1. The participating states are determined to promote international peace and security throughout the world in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and to pursue effective disarmament measures. In this context, they are determined to prevent any recourse to chemical weapons by completely eliminating them. They solemnly affirm their commitments not to use chemical weapons and condemn such use. They recall their serious concern at recent violations as established and condemned by the competent organs of the United Nations. They support the humanitarian assistance given to the victims affected by chemical weapons.

2. The participating states rec-

ognise the importance and continuing validity of the protocol for the prohibition of the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and bacteriological methods of warfare, signed on June 17, 1925 in Geneva. The states parties to the protocol solemnly reaffirm the prohibition as established in it. They call upon all states which have not yet done so to accede to the protocol.

3. The participating states stress the necessity of concluding, at an early date, a convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons, and on their destruction. This convention shall be global and comprehensive and effectively verifiable. It should be of unlimited duration. To this end, they call on the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to redouble its efforts, as a matter of urgency, to resolve expeditiously the remaining issues and to conclude the convention at the earliest date.

4. All states are requested to make, in an appropriate way, a significant contribution to the negotiations in Geneva by undertaking efforts in the relevant fields. The participating states therefore believe that any state wishing to contribute to these negotiations should be able to do so. In addition, in order to achieve as soon as possible the indispensable universal character of the convention, they call upon all states to become parties thereto as soon as it is concluded.

5. The participating states are gravely concerned by the growing danger posed to international peace and security by the risk of the use of chemical weapons as long as such weapons remain and are spread. In this context, they

stress the need for the early conclusion and entry into force of the convention, which will be established on a non-discriminatory basis. They deem it necessary, in the meantime, for each state to exercise restraint and to act responsibly in accordance with the purpose of the present declaration.

5. The participating states confirm their full support for the United Nations in the discharge of its indispensable role, in conformity with its Charter. They affirm that the United Nations provides a framework and an instrument enabling the international community to exercise vigilance with respect to the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons. They confirm their support for appropriate and effective steps taken by the United Nations in this respect in conformity with its Charter. They further reaffirm their full support for the secretary general in carrying out his responsibilities for investigations in the event of alleged violations of the Geneva Protocol. They express their wish for early completion of the work undertaken to strengthen the efficiency of existing procedures and call for the cooperation of all states, in order to facilitate the action of the secretary general.

6. The participating states, recalling the Final Document of the first Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to Disarmament in 1978, underline the need to pursue with determination their efforts to secure general and complete disarmament under effective international control, so as to ensure the right of all states to peace and security.

Central American peace process thwarted as summit delayed

By Paul Iredale
Reuters

MANAGUA — The elusive quest for peace in Central America, where about 100,000 people have died in guerrilla wars this decade, has suffered a further reverse with the postponement of a regional summit next weekend.

To Central Americans numbed by years of hollow political gestures and abortive peace plans, the decision by the region's presidents not to meet in El Salvador came as no surprise.

But the decision is tinged with irony, as the main force behind delaying the meeting was Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who won the Nobel Peace Prize and built a world reputation for his efforts to bring the bickering nations of Central America together.

Arias said there remained un-

resolved differences on proposals to send an international observer force to the region, the main item on the agenda, and the new U.S. administration had still to define its policies towards Central America.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Latin diplomats said Arias was also influenced by growing domestic discontent in Costa Rica, where he has been accused of playing the international stage while an economic crisis grows, and his need to curry U.S. favour so that it will assist his country in debt negotiations in the months ahead.

The biggest loser in the decision to postpone the summit was Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

Ortega was looking to the arrival of an international obser-

ver force to finally crush the contra rebels after the U.S. congressional decision to suspend military aid last February.

An effective international force on Nicaragua's northern border with Honduras, where some 12,000 contras are living in camps, would have allowed Ortega to concentrate on his own economy, which is suffering 20,000 per cent annual inflation.

In an unlikely alliance, the observer force proposal was also backed by Honduras, one of the staunchest U.S. allies in the region.

Managua and Tegucigalpa, which are at odds over the latter's decision to allow the contras to set up bases in its territory, proposed that a force provided by Canada, West Germany, Spain and a Latin American nation should police Honduras's borders with Nicaragua and El Salvador.

LETTERS

To the Editor:

THE CAMPAIGN to clean up waste in Deir Alla, as reported in the Jordan Times, January 12-13, is commendable and should be supported nationwide. The steps which are being taken to establish national parks and serviced picnic areas in the valley are also excellent. My question though, is why should Jordan establish new national parks while the ones which have already been established are neglected and in states of disrepair? I speak specifically about Dibbin National Park, which at its present state might be more aptly called, "Dibbin national garbage dump."

Several years ago, thousands of dinars were spent to establish

Combat pollution

Dibbin park in one of the loveliest areas in Jordan. Weekend chalets, picnic tables, toilet facilities, playgrounds, and restaurant facilities were built to provide visitors with every possible need.

At that time, Dibbin was a delight to visit. A small fee was charged at the entrance of the park, and the place was organised, clean and thriving. This is no longer the case. At this point, the whole complex is abandoned and the level of pollution caused by garbage and plastic bags is such as to render the area a probable health hazard instead of a weekend picnic ground.

This leads to the following questions:

1. Can Jordan really afford to develop new parks when it doesn't take care of the ones it

already has?

2. Can we afford to ignore the need to educate the population in proper waste disposal?

We are presently in the throes of combating locust swarms which have the potential of destroying our countryside, yet at the same time, we are allowing our population, by the random scattering of plastic and other pollutants, do the same thing. I suggest that we take this "clean-up" campaign, initiated in Deir Alla, and apply it nationwide. Let's not only make small areas national parks, but let's make the whole of Jordan a "pollution free" park which everybody can enjoy and be proud of.

Karen Asfour
Amman

Live hard, die young

By Terry Leonard
The Associated Press

REGGIO DI CALABRIA — A lone assassin rapidly fired five shots at point-blank range through the window of a Pizzeria and then vanished into the winter night, riding a motorcycle.

He left behind three people dead or dying, three wounded and his Belgian-made, 12-gauge sawed-off shotgun — a trademark of an underworld killing.

The next morning, at a gas station across town, a mob-linked contractor opened the door of his bulletproof car and died, along with his son-in-law, in bursts of submachine gun and automatic rifle fire.

The 'Ndrangheta — the name for the Calabrian underworld — has made a killing field of the faded cities and towns in the rugged hills and along the jagged coast of Italy's impoverished southern tip.

In the past year, 165 people have been slain in the province of Reggio Calabria, at least 50 of them in this city located on the toe of the Italian boot, across the Strait of Messina from Sicily.

The death toll compares with just 31 killings in the province of Rome, whose population of 3.7 million is more than six times that of Reggio Calabria.

Investigators say most of the Calabrian dead fell victim to a savage struggle for control of the drug trade or to a blood feud between two powerful organized crime families, a battle that has been waged for 25 years.

"In certain zones of Sicily, Calabria and Campania (Naples) the possession of the territory by organized crime is total," Domenico Sica, Italy's high anti-Mafia commissioner, recently told parliament's anti-Mafia commission.

The 'Ndrangheta — like Italy's other two major organized crime groups, the Mafia in Sicily and the Camorra in Naples — consists of many independent clans — each making its own deals and alliances with other crime families.

The bosses of the 'Ndrangheta, which means society of valourous men, rule their Calabrian territories through fear and intimidation.

Their retribution is swift and lethal, through cheap hired killers.

One Rome-based investigator, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the average price for a hired killing in Calabria is the equivalent of \$400. Freelance hit-men sometimes kill for free, hoping to curry favour with a certain boss.

Drugs are at the core of the criminal empire that links the 'Ndrangheta with the Sicilian Mafia, Colombian cocaine kingpins in South America and heroin warlords in Asia.

Authorities estimate that Italian crime bosses earn \$10 to \$12 billion a year from the international heroin trade, and that sales of cocaine and other drugs may push the total beyond \$20 billion.

The 'Ndrangheta also profits from kidnapping rings that collect huge ransoms for reinvestment in drug deals, trading in counterfeit dollars, gun-running along the rocky coast and from "murder for hire" services.

Calabrian businesses pay extortion to avoid the torch, and corrupt politicians swell 'Ndrangheta coffers with millions of dollars misdirected from public works contracts, government development funds and investment schemes designed to benefit Italy's underdeveloped south.

To reassess control, the government proposes expanding the powers of police investigating organised crime and drug trafficking. One measure would give police for the first time the authority to conduct undercover investigations — something forbidden in a postwar Italy that remembers fascist abuses of police powers.

Interior Minister Antonio Gava also has promised better training for police, the formation of specialised departments, the creation of mobile groups to help in trouble spots and new local commissioners to oversee the war on crime in Calabria.

The government plans hearten Lieutenant Colonel Corrado Borruso, the commander of the Carabinieri paramilitary police in Reggio Di Calabria on the frontline of the war against organised crime.

Borruso said he believes the government can defeat the 'Ndrangheta, using the expanded powers and undercover operations to go after the leaders and stop the killing.

"It will be a struggle, really a long struggle," Borruso said in an interview. "We must seek to stop this slaughter through the arrest of the big bosses who pull the strings of all the 'Ndrangheta operations."

But some other investigators question whether the Italian government has the political will to defeat organised crime.

Billions of dollars in illicit pro-

fits bolster the clout of the Mafia and 'Ndrangheta, and some politicians owe their careers to votes collected by the mob.

Privately some investigators admit they can't penetrate the tight-knit clans of the 'Ndrangheta and don't know enough about its operation or its relationships with the Camorra and the Mafia.

For example, they know the Calabrians help to smuggle tons of Morphine base into Italy from Southwest Asia, to refine it and sell it in Europe and the United States through contacts with 'Ndrangheta clans in Toronto.

But they don't know the details of the partnership with the Mafia, who really control the drug market, or how much the Camorra shares in the profits.

Underlings willing to testify against their Calabrian bosses are extremely rare.

"He who is blind, deaf and dumb will live a hundred years," advises an Italian proverb on the code of silence called the "Omertà" or "Diffidenza."

The government's enemy also is formidable in its sheer size. Police say there are 156 'Ndrangheta clans in Calabria, 93 of them in Reggio Calabria.

Police records list slightly over 4,000 members of the clans in Calabria. But investigators have said they believe that for every clan member on the list, there are at least two who have escaped identification.

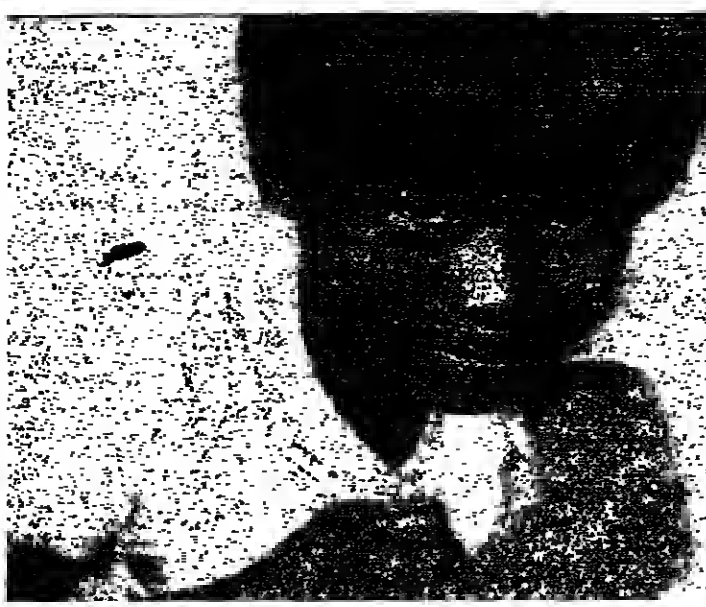
Police from all agencies in Calabria number about 3,600. But Borruso and other investigators bristle at suggestions they need more manpower, apparently considering such recommendations a veiled slap at police effectiveness.

"It is not only a question or a problem for the police," said Borruso.

The government, he said, must change the environment in Calabria that permits the 'Ndrangheta to flourish. His sentiments are echoed by both national and local politicians, who believe Italy can never defeat the 'Ndrangheta in Calabria, the Camorra in Campania or the Mafia in Sicily as long as the regions are allowed to languish in poverty.

Calabria ranks at the bottom of the list of per capita income by region, with its citizens earning 44 per cent less than the national average.

Calabria's unemployment rate of 21.6 per cent is nearly twice the 11.9 per cent national average.



"The aim of real development is the enhancement of the capacities of the poorest, their health and nutrition, their education and skills, their abilities to control their own lives, and their opportunities to earn a fair reward for their labours". — (Photograph: Lars Astrom)

AFTER forty years of progress, large areas of the developing world are now sliding backwards into poverty, says this year's State of the World's Children report from UNICEF. "By far the heaviest consequences" says the agency's Executive Director, James Grant, "are being borne by children". In the last twelve months, the report estimates that half a million children have died as a result of the slowing down or reversal of development.

Throughout Africa and Latin America, average family incomes have fallen by 10 per cent to 25 per cent since 1980. For the poorest, this has meant cutting down on necessities. "In many of the countries for which figures are available" says UNICEF, "child malnutrition is on the increase".

Indebted governments have also cut expenditures on social services and this, too, has hurt children most. The 40 least developed countries have slashed spending on health by 50 per cent per head and on education by 25 per cent per head over the last few years. And in almost half of the developing countries, the proportion of 6-to-11 year-olds in school is now falling.

Asia's progress

This harsh picture is mitigated by the continued economic progress of most nations in Asia, home to more than half the world's children. But Asia still contains the majority of the world's poor, warns UNICEF. One third of all child deaths, for example, occur in just three countries — Bangladesh, India and Pakistan.

In the other major regions of the developing world, development has been derailed by a 30 per cent fall in the price of raw materials and the accumulation of a staggering debt of more than \$1000 billion. Repayments of capital and interest are claiming 25 per cent of export earnings and the developing world is now transferring \$20 billion a year more to the rich nations than it receives in new aid and loans.

Good news

By contrast, UNICEF has spectacular successes to report in the fight against major specific health problems. In this decade, the proportion of the developing world's infants who are immunised has risen from 5 per cent to well over 50 per cent. The result is a saving of over 1.5 million young lives and the prevention of approximately 200,000 cases of polio each year.

Similarly, the appalling toll of diarrhoeal disease — still the number one cause of death among the world's children — is finally beginning to fall as more

Real aid for real development

and more parents become aware of the low-cost treatment known as oral rehydration therapy or ORT. Almost unknown outside scientific circles at the start of the 1980s, ORT is now being used by more than 25 per cent of the developing world's families and is saving almost a million young lives each year.

Equally significant is the rapid spread of knowledge about timing births. Births which are "too many or too close", or births to women who are "too old or too young", are responsible for up to one quarter of all maternal and infant deaths world-wide. The fact that a majority of couples now have the knowledge to decide the number and timing of their births is therefore a major health advance, says UNICEF.

Going for growth

"These advances for children are among the greatest humanitarian achievements of our times" says UNICEF, "and they show that it is now possible to protect the lives and the growth of the vast majority of the world's young children at very low cost." But both past achievements and future hopes are threatened by the continuing economic crisis. "The individual development and social contribution of millions of children" says the report, "is being shaped by the economics of now."

Arguing for drastic debt reduction by governments and commercial banks, UNICEF suggests that enabling the indebted countries to keep up their repayments is not enough. "What is needed is a combination of debt reduction and increased aid to unlock the doors to growth" says the report. "Without growth, we will merely be rearranging the furniture inside the debtor's prison."

Growth in the developing world would also help to restructure the unsustainable imbalances between the major economies of the industrialised world, argues the report. Recession in the developing nations is estimated to have cost the economies of Europe, Japan, and North America several million jobs and tens of billions of dollars in lost exports during the 1980s.

Real development

Ironically, discussions on the debt crisis could now be re-opening the North-South dialogue on development cooperation. But UNICEF believes that action on debt, aid and trade to help put development back on the rails also depends upon a change in development's direction.

"The harsh lesson of the debt crisis" says the report, "is that the

poor have suffered most in bad economic times just as they benefited least in good economic times".

"This kind of development will not receive, and does not deserve, the support of the public. If a renewed development effort is to arise from the depths of the debt crisis, then its first priority should be the meeting of the essential needs of all human beings for adequate nutrition, clean water, safe sanitation, primary health care, adequate housing, and basic education."

Calling for "real aid for real development", the report reviews the low cost strategies now available for meeting basic needs. Stressing that political commitment is as important as financial resources, the report puts the cost at an extra \$30 to \$50 billion a year throughout the 1990s.

About half of this sum could come from the developing world itself if funds were shifted from high-cost services for the few towards low-cost services for the many. The other half would have to come in increased aid. This should be made available, says UNICEF, as part of a "real development pact" to eradicate the worst aspects of poverty and underdevelopment by the end of the 20th century.

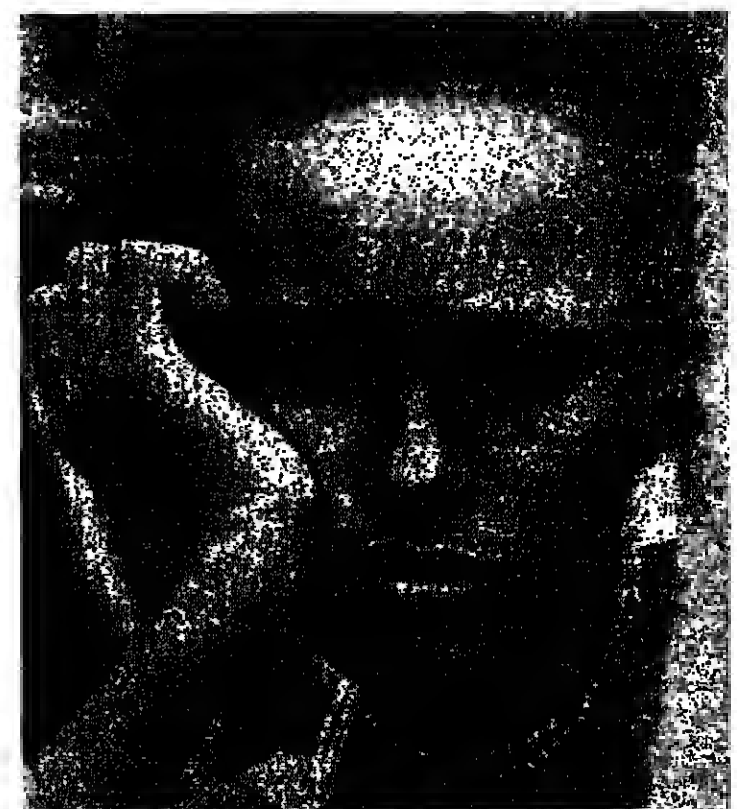
A summit for children

The child health achievements of the 1980s have shown that it is

now possible to make the great breakthrough for children and protect the physical and mental development of the vast majority of the world's under-fives. So important is this task, and so profound the connection between the physical and mental growth of children and the social and economic development of their societies, says UNICEF, that the time may now be right for a summit meeting of the world's leaders to discuss this opportunity.

Such a meeting, the report suggests, might also help to create the wider vision of international cooperation for the kind of development which "meets the needs and enhances the capacities of the poorest half of the world's people".

"It cannot be stressed too much" concludes the report, "that it is the international community as a whole which stands to gain from a renewed effort for 'real development'". "The persistence of poverty on this planet is ultimately inseparable from the issues of violence, instability, and environmental deterioration" says UNICEF's Executive Director. "International co-operation to meet the essential needs of all families is the greatest investment which it is possible for the human race to make in its future economic prosperity, political stability, and environmental integrity." UNICEF



"For almost nine hundred million people, approximately one sixth of mankind, the march of human progress has now become a retreat... large areas of the world are sliding backwards into poverty". — (Photograph: Lars Astrom)



Palestinians and Israelis don't spend much time talking to one another.

Ghosts and barbed wire

By Gail Fitzer
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — An emaciated Jewish ghost holds a Palestinian boy's hand behind the barbed wire of a Nazi concentration camp.

The drawing is one of 18 works by Italian artists created to express solidarity with the year-old Palestinian uprising against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In an exhibition Arab Jerusalem, the Italian artists have been joined by four Palestinians and two Israelis.

Entitled "Kufia", Italian artists for Palestine ("Kufia" is the Italian spelling of keffiyeh, the Arab headdress), it is the first display on the uprising in which works by foreign artists have appeared.

"I prefer to draw the Jew with the dress of the victim and not with the dress of the soldier, the oppressor, because victims are the same in all wars," said artist Vandro Senesi, describing his drawing of a Jewish ghost in prison uniform.

"Palestinian children in an Israeli prison are victims of a concentration camp. I think Jews who were in Nazi concentration camps can feel what Palestinian children feel in a concentration camp," the 35-year-old artist from Rome said.

Most Israelis, even those critical of the occupation, regard any comparison between their rule in the occupied territories and Nazi persecution of Jews during World War II as deeply offensive.

Italian artist Patrizio Asposeto said in a statement at the exhibi-

tion's opening: "We thought it was important to take a step against the Israeli leadership, insensitivity and repression."

"This includes the deportation policy, arrests without trial, the sieges of refugee camps and... the attempt to annihilate the national and cultural identity of this people."

More than 350 Palestinians, and 14 Israelis, have died in the Arab uprising. Israeli authorities have arrested more than 20,000 Palestinians, jailed 4,000 without trial and expelled about 50.

3,000 copies sold

The exhibition, which has toured 30 Italian cities in the past 10 months, will also appear in Tel Aviv, Kibbutz Givat Haviva and Nazareth. More than 3,000 prints of the original paintings have been sold.

"This exhibit is in reality not just beautiful... it is a political and moral statement representing the absolute refusal of injustice," said Sulaiman Mansure, head of the League of Palestinian Artists.

"More importantly we see it as a symbol of the solidarity of the people of the world with us and their willingness to take the initiative and to struggle with us for a just and lasting peace, based on the creation of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil."

Organiser Vera Tamari from Ramallah said the Italian artists and Palestinian organisers of the exhibition felt unified in one cause. "I think artistically, culturally and morally, it will help Palestinians to feel they have friends outside who are aware of

what is happening," she added. Israeli artist David Reeb painted a Palestinian sweeping a street near his Tel Aviv home. "It represents the exploitation of Palestinians and labourers, which makes it difficult for Israel to give back the territories," he said. "I'm glad for the opportunity to participate with my work in an act designed to show solidarity with the struggle the Palestinian people are currently engaged in. I'm sorry more Israeli artists are not participating."

No less a crime

Jose Munoz, a 46-year-old Argentinian painter who has been living in Milan for 10 years, also invoked the memory of the six million Jews killed in the Nazi holocaust.

He painted a Jewish star alongside the Islamic crescent moon, inside a Christian cross, with a slogan saying that to kill three or four people a day was no less a crime than killing six million.

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Oil prices continue rising

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. oil prices rose sharply Friday, hitting their highest levels since last April due to continued signs that the OPEC nations are cutting their high level of production.

Industry analysts said that with the group apparently sticking to new production quotas that began Jan. 1, prices would easily rise further this week to \$19 a barrel.

West Texas Intermediate, the U.S. benchmark grade of crude oil, rose 31 cents to \$18.48 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange for the February contract. Prices last week have risen nearly \$1 from \$17.55 at last Friday's close.

The market was given a boost when OPEC Secretary-General Subroto said Thursday the group's output for January was forecast to be below its production ceiling of 18.5 million barrels per day.

The group agreed to the new production figures in late November. Since then, prices have risen more than \$3 a barrel amid signs that OPEC producers would not ignore this pact as they have the previous limits.

"The market is beginning to favourably view OPEC. Many believe they will cut (output)," said Jim Steel, analyst with Refco Inc. "I believe oil prices will challenge \$19 next week and will probably get over it. It's a strong market."

Even if January production figures reveal that OPEC is producing at about 19 million to 20 million barrels daily, it will be a significant cut from December levels. The 13-member group

produced 22.76 million barrels in December, according to a recent Reuters survey.

"There are several other factors underpinning the market, and there are still a number of major oil companies which have not met their physical February requirements," said Nauman Barakat, broker with Prudential-Bach Securities.

"When there is a slight dip in prices you see them (the major oil companies) coming in to buy. I think that next week oil prices will approach \$19 and there is a possibility of breaking through that level," he said.

Domestic prices were also propped up by higher prices for North Sea Brent blend, the most widely traded spot grade of crude oil. In New York, the blend was quoted at \$16.90 for February loading, up 40 cents.

Also pushing up Brent crude was the shutdown of the Brent Delta oil platform on Jan. 1 after

an explosion there. The platform had been producing 100,000 barrels per day of crude oil before the blast. No date is set for resuming production.

Another ingredient of the market giving it strength is the hope that certain non-OPEC producers will cut output after meeting with OPEC nations in late January in London.

Non-OPEC producers Angola, China, Colombia, Egypt, Mexico, Malaysia, Oman and North Yemen will meet Jan. 25 to decide what form their cooperation with OPEC should take, the official OPEC News Agency said.

Figures for domestic crude stocks are also underpinning the oil market, analysts said. The American Petroleum Institute said U.S. crude stocks fell about 5.6 million barrels in the week ended Jan. 6.

Compared with year-ago levels, U.S. oil stocks were down more than 14 million barrels.

Stoltenberg urges rich countries to revamp strategy on world debt

WASHINGTON (R) — Rich countries must breathe new life into their Third World debt strategy because social and economic strains in many countries are getting worse, West German Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg said Friday.

Wrapping up a two-day visit, Stoltenberg told reporters the debt crisis would be high on the agenda when finance ministers and central bankers from the seven industrial countries meet again, probably next month in Washington.

Stoltenberg, seeking to restrain the financial markets' expectations of the meeting, said it would not produce dramatic or sensational results.

Rather, it would be an opportunity to take stock of policy in the early days of the Bush administration and get to know the new Japanese finance minister, Tatsuji Murayama.

Currency discussions would take a back seat at the meeting because everybody in the Group of Seven (G-7) — the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy — saw eye to eye on the dollar, Stoltenberg said.

"Around current levels, this dollar exchange rate is reasonable and agreeable to all of us," he said.

In other remarks aimed at soothing nervous markets, Stoltenberg said his talks here had left him very confident about the prospects for reducing the federal budget deficit.

"There's a good chance that there will be an agreement between the administration and Congress for significant budget reduction at an appropriate time," he said, declining to elaborate on the reasons for his optimism.

Earlier Friday, Stoltenberg held what he called rewarding talks with Richard Darman, President-elect Bush's nominee for budget director.

America's trading partners have not spelt out what they want from the Bush administration in the way of deficit reduction, but some European officials feel a credible plan to meet the deficit targets embodied by the Gramm-Rudman budget balancing law would satisfy impatient financial markets.

The law stipulates a deficit in fiscal year 1990, which starts Oct.

1, of \$100 billion.

The budget President Reagan submitted Monday envisages a drop in the deficit to \$92.5 billion from \$161.5 billion this year without raising taxes, but many economists believe that forecast relies on overly optimistic assumptions.

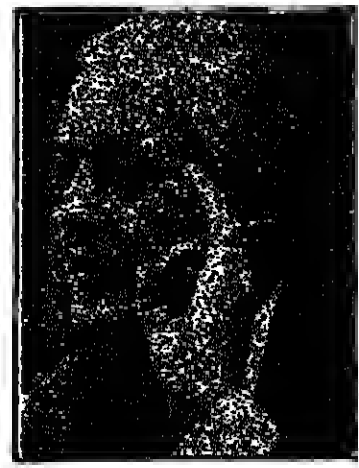
U.S. interest rates have risen in recent months, clouding the outlook for the budget deficit and world growth and aggravating the \$1.2 trillion Third World debt burden.

More than six years since the Latin American debt problem flared up, a solution to the region's \$420 billion burden remains elusive and financial strains are growing.

A finance ministry spokesman in Brasilia said Friday that Brazil, the Third World's largest debtor owing about \$118 billion, was seeking a bridge loan of \$3-4 billion.

Mexico arranged an emergency line of credit for \$3.5 billion from the U.S. Treasury in October. Venezuela, announced last month it was suspending principal repayments on most of its \$35 billion debt.

Stoltenberg ruled out global



Gerhard Stoltenberg

debt forgiveness or bailing out commercial banks, but he said the G-7 had to weight "new elements" to incorporate into its debt strategy and must consider with debtors to recommend policy changes that would attract more private funds and staunch capital flight.

He made it clear, however, that the G-7 would not agree to the summit meeting that Latin debtors were seeking.

'Not all revenue increases are tax hikes'

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Higher taxes on petrol, cigarettes and alcohol could earn more money for the government without breaking President-elect Bush's pledge against new taxes, bush's chief budget adviser said Friday.

Asked by Congress to clarify Bush's position on new taxes, Richard Darman said in some circumstances taxes on cigarettes, alcohol and petrol, oil import fees and fees for government services such as entry to national parks might raise revenue as "user fees" without being labelled taxes.

"President Bush has stated that he would oppose all new taxes. That doesn't mean that all increases in government receipts are 'new taxes'," Darman said in a written response to questions from the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee.

While Darman did not advocate increased revenue from any source and did not foresee any

major changes in tax structure, his statement points out the political difficulty Bush and Congress will have in deciding how and if government revenues should be raised.

"Putting academics and sophistry aside, however, my suspicion is that in the end such definitional matters are political... if it looks like a 'tax' to most Americans, it's a tax," Darman said.

Many in Congress have said they doubt the 1990 federal deficit can be cut to the \$100 billion required by law without tax hikes.

Specific details of the Bush administration's tax and budget proposals will be unveiled by Bush about Feb. 9.

Even if Congress and the White House decide against new taxes, current tax laws will result in \$84 billion in higher taxes in the year beginning Oct. 1, according to White House estimates.

Meanwhile, the government

says the landmark 1986 overhaul of the federal income tax, which was widely advertised as having no effect on the budget deficit, actually will worsen the red ink by almost \$91 billion over a five-year period.

The 1990 budget that President Ronald Reagan sent to Congress Monday projects the new tax law will add \$24.4 billion to the deficit this fiscal year and \$20.3 billion in the year that begins Oct. 1. It resulted in an \$8.9 billion loss in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 1988.

A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) specialist disputed the treasury calculations. CBO's figures, which are expected in a few days, will show a far smaller revenue loss over five years. The official said CBO's estimates are supported by the Joint Committee on Taxation, which advises Congress on tax matters.

"In 1992 and 1993, we believe the new law will increase collections by between \$5 billion and

\$10 billion a year," said the CBO official, who would not be quoted by name.

"Looking even further into the future, it's going to be revenue-neutral," meaning it will produce the same revenue that the old law would have in those years, the CBO source said.

The Treasury Department offered no official explanation of why its new estimates differ so widely from earlier calculations.

However, one treasury aide suggested the problem is that the new estimates have no way of accounting for higher incomes that many economists think resulted from lower tax rates under the new law.

This explanation is based on the concept that underlies Reagan's economic policies: That cutting tax rates induces people to work hard, earn more and save more. Those higher incomes, in turn, would produce more revenue for the government.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Zaire to stop repaying Belgian loans

KINSHASA (R) — President Mobutu Sese Seko, stung by Belgian press criticism of his lifestyle, has said Zaire would stop debt repayments to Belgium. It would also look to countries other than Belgium to refine its huge copper exports, Mobutu said, adding the decisions should be implemented no matter what the cost. He denounced a 28-year-old friendship treaty between Brussels and its former colony, and said relations would have to change. "Belgium is entirely responsible for the present crisis... even though I have decided not to break off relations it is clear that the relationship with Belgium cannot continue in its present form," Mobutu said. The row erupted in November after reporters accompanying Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens on a visit to Zaire were shocked at the poverty they saw. They asked what happened to the \$130 million of aid Belgium gives Zaire each year. Mobutu, outraged by press suggestions he had pocketed some of the money, ordered Zaireans living in Belgium to leave and said the special relationship with Brussels was over.

Verity sees economic warfare in '90s

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Commerce Secretary William Verity has said the years of American military modernisation were ending and the 1990s would focus on what he called economic warfare. Verity said most of President Reagan's years in the White House had been devoted to building up America's military but "that's going on downward curve because that's been achieved." "What's going to happen in the 1990s," Verity said, "is economic warfare. Economic warfare is trade." Verity said there were new markets emerging in Asia and Europe and the United States must mobilise its resources to capture them over other exporting countries. He predicted President-elect Bush would give top priority in his incoming administration to trade "and how America can be sure that it will be the number one player." "The bottom line of the future is exporting," he said. Verity renewed his call for the removal of impediments to trade, including a change in antitrust law to let U.S. firms pool skills to market goods abroad and more attention paid to education to better prepare Americans to trade globally.

Poland plans to end coal exports

WARSAW (AP) — The government expects to virtually end coal exports by the year 2000 because of rising domestic demand and increasing costs of extraction. Industry Minister Mieczyslaw Wilczek has said. Poland, now the world's fifth-largest exporter of coal, shipping about 28 million tons abroad annually, will instead try to increase exports of other products, Wilczek said. Orzech said Poland has been struggling to keep production as high as 190 million tons of coal annually and it is not economically feasible to increase extraction. Meanwhile, demand for energy is increasing in Poland and the country has few other significant energy resources. So the country must retain the coal for its own domestic use, Wilczek said. Polish coal exports have been falling since the mid-1980s. As recently as 1984 it exported 42 million tons.

IEA reports near record oil output

PARIS (R) — Oil production was at its highest for nine years in the non-communist world in 1988, mainly because of over-production by OPEC countries, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said Wednesday. Production in 1988 averaged 50.4 million barrels daily, the highest since 51.3 million barrels were pumped daily in 1979. Oil prices fell during 1988 because the market was glutted with crude, reflecting the way energy conservation was quenched demand since 1979. In 1979/80 prices rose sharply as industrial nations bought every drop. The Paris-based IEA said Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) production in 1988 hit a seven-year high of 19.5 million barrels daily.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, Jan. 14, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	77.5	77.9
U.S. dollar	486.0	488.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	381.9	383.8
Pound Sterling	838.1	862.4	Dutch guilder	233.4	234.6
Deutschemark	263.3	264.6	Swedish krona	77.2	77.6
Swiss franc	308.6	310.1	Italian lira (for 100)	35.9	36.1
			Belgian franc (for 10)	125.8	126.4

Dollar gains

NEW YORK (AP) — The dollar surged to three-month highs against major currencies Friday as buyers shrugged off attempts by central banks to restrain its rise.

Most of the dollar's gains occurred after midday in New York, when currency trading ceased in Europe and the European central banks were no longer in the market selling dollars, traders said.

There were reports of two rounds of intervention earlier in the day by the central banks of the United States, West Germany, Canada, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, France, Britain and Austria.

After the dollar had already achieved its gains for the day, the U.S. Federal Reserve by itself reportedly sold some dollars late in the U.S. trading session.

Traders were unimpressed by the central banks because it appeared the banks were merely trying to stall the dollar's rise, not drive the dollar down, said Stephen Flanagan, senior yen dealer at Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co.

The U.S. government fears the dollar's rise because it could hurt the competitiveness of American goods in world markets, worsening the U.S. trade deficit. Japan, West Germany and others fear higher inflation if their currencies become too weak.

The dollar closed in New York at its highest levels since October against the Deutschmark, Japanese yen, Swiss franc, French franc and Italian lira and at its highest level since November against the British pound.

In spite of the seemingly sharp rise in the dollar, though, currency rates remain far more stable than they were earlier in the decade, said Craig Sloane, a currency analyst with Smith Barney, Harris Upham and Co.

The dollar shot up until February 1985 and then immediately collapsed, losing half its value against the yen and the mark in little more than two years. Since then it has traded in a relatively narrow range.

The dollar's rise Friday came in spite of news that U.S. retail sales increased by only 0.2 per cent in December, while market forecasts had been for an increase of 1.4 per cent.

Higher sales could have signalled a hike in interest rates which would have made the dollar more attractive to investors. Instead, yields on treasury bonds fell sharply.

Also, the Commerce Department is scheduled to report on the November merchandise trade deficit Wednesday, and traders are usually reluctant to buy dollars heavily in advance of the report in case a big deficit hurts the U.S. currency.

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Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Sunday, Jan. 7, '89 and ending Wednesday Jan. 11, '89. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Industrial Development Bank	—	—	—	—	1,000
Petra Bank	5400	12783	2,290	2,350	1,000
Jordan Islamic Bank	1150	2119	1,790	1,850	1,000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	6080	8916	1,440	1,470	1,000
Jordan Gulf Bank	4085	4984	1,240	1,220	1,000
Housing Bank	1595	3031	1,890	1,900	1,000
Cairo Jordan Investment Bank	975	2389	2,500	2,450	1,000
Arab Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5,000
Bank of Jordan	143	2199	15,000	15,250	5,000
Arab Bank	6020	846213	141,000	142,500	10,000
Jordan National Bank	13055	34479	2,650	2,650	1,000
Jordan Finance House for Development	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	22254	48465	2,400	2,450	1,000
Finance and Credit Corporation	32650	18284	0,560	0,560	1,000
National Financial Investments	1050	2163	2,170	2,060	1,000
National Portfolio Securities	45290	38598	0,820	0,850	1,000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Securities Corporation	30877	28407	0,920	0,920	1,000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2,000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10,000
Insurance and reinsurance					
Jordan French Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
RESCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	10,000
National Ahlyia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Beirut Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1,000
Universal Insurance	7900	5354	0,670	0,680	1,000
Services and industries					
General Investments	100	130	1,340	1,300	1,000
Imna for Investment and Financial Facilities	10000	662	0,650	0,670	1,000
Arco for Housing and Investment	108510	91714	0,870	0,800	1,000
Real Estate Investment (Agarco)	354713	229140	0,610	0,650	1,000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	127393	56109	0,380	0,440	1,000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1,000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	45350	8163	0,680	0,680	1,000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Ta'jeero	13078	3722	0,780	0,780	1,000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordanian Electric Power	19709	33496	1,680	1,690	1,000
Irbid District Electricity	750	705	1,000	0,920	1,000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1,000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1,000
Garage Owners Federation Office	550	2548	4,700	4,600	1,000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	6450	6126	0,970	0,940	1,000
Jordan Press Foundation	350	1015	2,900	2,900	1,000
Jordan Press and Publishing	100	190	1,900	1,900	1,000
Oar Al Shab Press, Printing and Publishing	38750	21663	0,570	0,560	1,000
Jordan Dairy	21271	21590	1,000	1,020	1,000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	9343	21889	2,300	2,340	1,000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	441311	669395	1,510	1,510	1,000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	228	832	3,700	3,650	1,000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intal)	194956	296399	1,360	1,520	1,000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	3524	4250	4,250	4,400	1,000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	2000	1320	0,940	0,910	1,000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1,000
Aladdin Industries	284835	444117	1,520	1,570	1,000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	52025	105804	2,000	2,030	1,000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	500	2500	5,000	5,000	1,000
Jordan Ceramics	6550	10838	1,590	1,660	1,000
Chemical Industries	67124	171904	2,350	2,580	1,000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	38000	25465	0,650	0,670	1,000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	6284	2910	2,150	2,210	1,000
Oar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	8900	25999	2,910	2,950	1,000
National Steel Industries	367802	1084065	2,680	3,020	1,000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	1,000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	2344	20169	8,400	8,630	1,000
Jordan Lime & Brick	86351	17583	0,210	0,200	1,000
National Industries	—	—	—	—	1,000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	13200	4448	0,380	0,340	1,000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	23092	35993	1,540	1,570	1,000
Livestock and Poultry	802	569	0,740	0,710	1,000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	38352	59089	1,470	1,530	1,000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1,000

NBA Roundup

Jordan does it again

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Jordan had 38 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists for his seventh career "triple double" leading the Chicago Bulls past the Detroit Pistons 104-92 Friday night.

Jordan scored 33 points in the fourth quarter, including three-pointers and a 12-foot shot, to lead the Bulls to a 97-94 victory over the Pistons.

The Bulls have won three consecutive games and six of the last eight. Denver has lost six straight on the road.

A "triple double" is when a player has statistics in double figures for scoring, rebounds and assists.

Pistons 119, Bulls 103

Adrian Dantley made 17 of 21 foul shots and finished with 35 points as the Detroit Pistons beat the Washington Bullets 119-103.

Bucks 107, Heat 101

Ricky Pierce scored 23 points, including 16 in the pivotal third

quarter, and the Milwaukee Bucks handed the Miami Heat its 10th straight loss, 107-101.

76ers 114, Hawks 10

Charles Barkley had 23 points and 19 rebounds and Hersey Hawkins scored 21 points as the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Atlanta Hawks 114-101 for their fourth straight victory.

Lakers 116, Cavaliers 95

Magic Johnson scored 26 points and handed off 11 assists as the Los Angeles Lakers swamped the Cleveland Cavaliers 116-95 in a matchup of the NBA's two-time defending champions against the league's winningest team this season.

Warriors 127, Clippers 113

Chris Mullin scored 28 points and "rookie" Mitch Richmond added 25 as the Golden State Warriors won their third game in a row and extended the Los Angeles Clippers' losing streak to nine, with a 127-113 victory.

Palestinians win 1st game

ROME (R) — A Palestinian national football team opened a European tour aimed at gaining world sporting recognition Saturday with victory against an Italian side.

Dressed in red and white, with their goalkeeper sporting a "T-shirt" bearing an anti-fascist slogan, the team beat a squad of Italian journalists 3-0.

The tour, aimed at persuading the international Olympic com-

mittee to grant Palestine a place in the 1992 Olympics, will include other amateur matches in Italy as well as meetings with politicians. The squad goes to France on Jan. 20.

Security was tight outside Rome's Marble Stadium as police put about 60 Palestinian supporters through metal detector checks and body searches.

Israel has protested against the visit.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARI
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THRUST AND PARRY

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 4 2
♥ K 2
♦ A K Q J 4 3
♣ 3

EAST
♠ A 3
♥ Q J 8 7 5
♦ 10 7 6
♣ A 10 9 8 4

SOUTH
♠ K 10 9 5
♥ Q J 10 4
♦ 9 2
♣ K 7 5

The bidding:

West North East South

Pass 1 0 1 7 1 A

Pass 3 A Pass 4 A

Pass 4 A Pass 4 A

Opening lead: Six of ♠

It is always interesting to watch an able defender battle a competent declarer. This hand features excellent play by both sides, but declarer prevailed in the end.

Most modern players would make a "negative" double with the South hand rather than respond one spade. North's jump to three spades was rather aggressive, since his king of hearts could be badly placed.

and under fire at trick one. However, the final contract was impeccable.

Declarer found a neat riddle. He abandoned trumps in favor of cashing his high diamonds. East could not afford to ruff the third diamond with the ace, so he discarded a heart and declarer got rid of his last club. He came to hand with the queen of hearts and now he took a successful "line" for the jack of trumps. East could do no harm when in with the ace of trumps, and the contract was home.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Desert Orchid turns on champion show

ASCOT (R) — Cheltenham Gold Cup favourite Desert Orchid turned in another champion display to win a valuable handicap steeplechase by a head Saturday. The race will go down in the record books as one of the brilliant Grey's finest performance. The useful Panto Prince, receiving 10 kgs from the 6-4 favourite over the 3.2 kms trip, would not give up the lead. But Desert Orchid, just as brave, kept niggling away at the leader and wore him down in the last stride.

Wilander and Graf given unknowns

MELBOURNE (AP) — Defending champions Mats Wilander and Steffi Graf were pitted against relatively easy first-round opponents for the 1.5 million-dollar Australian Open tennis championships at Friday's draw. Wilander, ranked No. 1 in the world and the tournament's top seed, will open against fellow Swede Tobias Svantesson, who is ranked 95th in the world, in the year's first Grand Slam tournament, being played at the national tennis center Jan. 16-29. Graf, of West Germany, the world's No. 1 women's player and top seed, was drawn against little-known Australian Kerrie Anne Guse.

Olympian to meet stiff competition

EAST RUTHERFORD (AP) — Jackie Joyner-Kersey, winner of two Olympic gold medals, will compete in the women's 55-meter high hurdles in the Meadowlands invitational Feb. 10 at the Meadowlands arena, meet officials announced Friday. Joyner-Kersey, Olympic champion in the heptathlon and long jump, won the Meadowlands hurdles race in 1987, setting a meet record of 7.45 seconds. This time, she is expected to receive strong opposition. Among the entries is Gail Devers, who shares the outdoor world record for the 100-meter hurdles of 12.61 with Joyner-Kersey.

Scott takes indoor mile

HAMILTON (AP) — Steve Scott of the United States won the mile and countryman Larry Myricks had the best indoor long jump ever in Canada at the spectator games track meet Friday night, the year's opening Grand Prix meet. Scott won in a time of 4 minutes, 5.7 seconds to beat Somalia's James Aden, 4:06.1, and Canada's Dave Campbell, 4:09. Myricks had a leap of 26 feet, 8 1/2 inches and Nick Saunders of Bermuda set a Commonwealth record in the high jump, clearing 7-8, 1-2. The previous record was 7-8, set at the Seoul Summer Olympics.

Girardelli wins World Cup downhill

KITZBUHEL (AP) — Austrian-born Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg conquered a tricky Hahnenkamm course Friday as he took the famed downhill World Cup race. Girardelli timed in 2 minutes, 1.25 seconds on the course that had a fresh layer of snow from the early morning hours. The course, which drops 890 metres, has a length of more than 3,500 metres. Second was Italian Michael Mair in 2:01.95 while third place went to Peter Mueller of Switzerland, 2:02.85. It was the 26th World Cup triumph this year for Girardelli, his first ever in downhill. He was won two slaloms this season. Favourites Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland and Helmut Hoeltner of Austria finished down the list as the snow covering slowed the course to make material selection important.

Navratilova faces Lindqvist in final

SYDNEY (AP) — Martina Navratilova and Sweden's Catarina Lindqvist advanced Saturday to the final of the \$350,000 New South Wales Open Tennis championships at White City.

Tyson back to training

LAS VEGAS (R) — World heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson was back in training here Friday after a sudden trip to Vancouver, Canada and a scuffle with news cameramen in a hotel where his estranged wife, actress Robin Givens, is filming a movie. The 22-year-old Tyson returned to Las Vegas Thursday and early Friday was training for his upcoming title defence against top contender Frank Bruno of Britain. "I feel great," said a smiling Tyson Friday morning at the Las Vegas Hilton, site of the Feb. 25 bout.

Heroic football star meets mixed blessings

WESTWOOD (AP) — Karl Nelson's wife gave birth to an 8-pound, 5-ounce (3.7-kilogram) baby girl, just two days after the New York Giants tackle announced he had a relapse in his battle with Hodgkin's disease. Heidi Nelson gave birth to the Nelson's second daughter, Lindsay Rae, Thursday morning at Pasack Valley Hospital, said a hospital spokeswoman who did not identify herself. Nelson, 28, made a heroic comeback from his cancer that was first detected in August 1987 and returned to play for the Giants this past season. Just before the season finale with the Jets, doctors discovered he had had a recurrence of the Hodgkin's, which attacks the body's lymphatic system.

Japanese sweep top nine places

SAPPORO (AP) — With Akira Higashi in the lead, Japanese ski jumpers swept the top nine places Saturday in the 70-metre jump at the 17th Olympic memorial Rim cup ski jump competition. Higashi soared 90 metres, the day's longest jump, in his first run and 89.5 metres in his second jump for 222.4 points to win the competition, held on Miyunomori Hill near Sapporo. With the victory, Higashi became the first Japanese high school student to win an international ski jump competition in Japan.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Cupid will be in supreme control of this day. There is optimism and trust between people. Charming contacts, emotional satisfaction and friendliness produce interesting and fun social activities.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Try not to criticize others. Avoid pushing your own ideas on them. The love bug may be at your doorstep waiting for an invitation.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Good thinking creates an enjoyable, clever plan for the family. Trust your own impulses. Find activities that are relaxing and fun.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Takes an active role in determining changes at home. Unforeseen expenses call for budget control. Spend pleasant time with friends.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) What seemed to slip away yesterday is now at your fingertips. You enjoy finishing home projects and clearing up personal matters.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 23) Structure your work so that you have time for young family members. Ultimate benefits come despite temporary frustrations.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 to Sept. 23) You need patience with travel plans.

Connect with people who please you. Some beautiful experiences will be remembered long afterward.



Angolans give a warm send-off to Cuban troops last week at a ceremony in a military training camp in Fanda.

Pretoria denies pact violations

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa's military denied Friday an Angolan official's claim that it was supplying Angolan rebels in violation of a three-nation peace treaty.

The South African defence forces said in a statement that the Angolan government should negotiate with the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) guerrillas in order to complete the peace process.

Major Valeriano Martinho, an Angolan member of a commis-

sion monitoring the cease-fire between South Africa and Angola, told journalists visiting the area Thursday that monitoring posts had not yet been established in southeastern Angola.

Martinho also said he believed South Africa was continuing to supply UNITA through gaps in the border area between Angola and the South African-ruled territory of Namibia.

The South Africans and Angolans agreed, as part of a Dec. 22 treaty leading to Cuban withdrawal from Angola and South

African withdrawal from Namibia, to establish posts along the border. But the negotiations did not include UNITA, which has received aid from South Africa and the United States in its 13-year war with the Angolan government that is supported by Cuban troops.

The South African Defence Force said in a statement responding to Martinho that it had done "everything and more that is required of it in terms of all the agreements signed between South Africa, Angola and Cuba."

Curfew remains in riot-torn Jammu

JAMMU, India (AP) — An indefinite curfew remained in effect in this northern city Saturday, where clashes between Hindus and Sikhs left at least seven people dead, authorities said.

No violence was reported in the city Saturday, but sporadic fighting between the two religious communities took place in the towns of Udhampur and Akhnoor, said divisional Commissioner N.R. Gupta.

A curfew was imposed and the army called out in Udhampur, 65 kilometres north of Jammu, after fighting broke out there, Gupta said. Clashes also were reported

from Akhnoor but no details had been received, he said.

Army and police were patrolling Jammu, said Gupta, the top administrator of the region.

Fighting broke out Friday after Sikhs holding a religious procession carried photographs of Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh, who were hanged last week for the 1984 assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Militant Hindus objected to the two executed Sikhs being paraded and pitched battles broke out on the streets.

Gupta said police later found six dead bodies and 93 people

were admitted to the hospital. One person later died of injuries, he said.

The city, about 65 kilometres north of Sikh-dominated Punjab state, has a population of about 500,000. Of these, about 80,000 are Sikhs and about 300,000 are Hindus. The rest are Muslims.

Kehar Singh and Satwant Singh were hanged Jan. 6 for the Oct. 31, 1984, assassination of Indira Gandhi, and militant Sikhs consider them to be martyrs.

Gandhi is apparently was assassinated in revenge for an army raid she ordered on the Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine.

Hanoi, Peking open first talks in 9 years

PEKING (R) — A senior Vietnamese official slipped quietly into China Saturday for the first direct talks between the two countries in more than nine years as international efforts to end the conflict in Kampuchea quickened pace.

Western diplomats said the official was Vietnam's first Deputy Foreign Minister Dinh Nho Liem.

Reporters at Peking's old airport, which is normally closed, peered through gaps between curtains and saw the official smile broadly and shake hands with his Chinese hosts.

A Chinese Communist Party source said the official would stay in Peking for several days to discuss Kampuchea, bilateral relations and arrangements for a possible visit to China by Vietnam's foreign minister, Nguyen Co Thach.

China is the main backer of the Communist Khmer Rouge which has fought Vietnamese troops and the Hanoi-backed Phnom Penh government since losing power in 1979.

China and Vietnam fought a border war in early 1979 after Vietnamese forces ousted the Khmer Rouge from Kampuchea.

For years China had refused to open talks with Vietnam until it withdraws its troops in Kam-

puchea which Hanoi says now number 50,000.

Chinese officials tried to keep Liem's visit quiet, declining to comment on reports he was about to arrive even after his Air China plane had left Bangkok.

Liem headed the Vietnamese side in the last top level encounter between the two countries, which followed their 1979 border war. Two rounds of talks had ended in failure by December of that year and Liem left Peking in February, 1980.

His new mission to China, Soviet sources said, was made possible by Sino-Soviet talks last year aimed at normalising relations between the two communist giants after a break of almost 30 years.

China's pre-condition for a visit to Peking by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is that the Soviet Union first put pressure on Vietnam to withdraw from Kam-

puchea. Peking indicated last week the way towards rapprochement with



Vietnam was open by welcoming Hanoi's offer to pull out its remaining troops from Kampuchea by September if a settlement was reached by the 10-year-old guerrilla war there.

Shultz reflects on 'crummy allies', turf wars, Gorbachev

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, reflecting on his years in the Reagan administration, praised Mikhail Gorbachev, told the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to mind its own business and mused on the problem of "crummy allies."

"We don't want crummy allies, and sometimes you have to work with people that you don't like at all, but you need to do it at arm's length and with your eyes open," Shultz said in an interview with Washington television station WETA to be broadcast Sunday.

"One thing I do take out of all this, however, is that it's a mistake to cut off your ability to communicate with people. Keep your ambassadors there so that you can talk to them. At least you can tell them how crummy they are and why you think they're

crummy."

Shultz, who heads for Stanford University in California after leaving office Jan. 20, did not specify which allies were the crummy ones but praised Soviet leader Gorbachev as sensitive to changes in international relations during the Reagan years.

"They (the Soviets) are realists... and I think the situation's changing in the world," Shultz said. "And I think Mr. Gorbachev has a very keen sense of it. He's a very able, smart person, and I think he sees this point."

Shultz rated the treaty with the Soviet Union to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear forces from Europe as one of the most positive results of his tenure at state, "an unambiguously very good thing."

Shultz, who became secretary of state when Alexander Haig

was forced out in July 1982, said of the CIA: "They should stick to intelligence and analysis and they shouldn't find policy so much fun."

"I believe that the CIA got captured by its own ideas of what our policy should be on some occasions," Shultz said in the interview.

Referring to the attempt to sell arms to Iran in exchange for Americans held hostage in Lebanon, he said: "There was an example... toward the end of the Iran-contra affair in which the terrorist activities of Iran were very misdescribed in a very obvious way."

He said he would not play any role in the State Department under James Baker, appointed as secretary of state by President-elect Bush.

Bush to be a tour guide Jan. 21

WASHINGTON (R) — In a bid to signal that he will run an open administration, President-elect Bush plans to mark his first full day on the job by leading a tour of the White House for whoever shows up at his front door. "It's a way of saying, 'I represent all of you and this is your house,'" transition spokeswoman Alise Glen said Friday. Glen said Bush will conduct the group on a first come, first served basis when the doors open for the regularly scheduled Saturday morning tour of the White House's public rooms Jan. 21.

Bush puppies on the way

ISLAMABAD, Florida (R) — As if President-elect Bush did not have enough trouble preparing to take over leadership of the country, he learned Friday his dog was pregnant. "I can announce that our dog is pregnant," Bush told reporters as he arrived in the Florida Keys for a fishing trip. "We expect puppies in the White House." The incoming U.S. leader, speaking tongue-in-cheek after fielding a barrage of questions about national and international issues, said Millie K., his three-year-old English Springer Spaniel, got in a family way Thursday and called it "a beautiful experience." "So on that family note, I will leave you all and hope that we don't have to bother each other over the next 48 hours."

Soviets buy Pushkin's letters

GENEVA (R) — The Soviet Union has bought a set of love letters by the 19th-century Russian poet Alexander Pushkin, the auctioneers Sotheby's said Friday. The handwritten letters, 11 of them in French and addressed to the poet's future wife Natalia Goncharova, will eventually be housed in a major new Pushkin museum. The Soviet Culture Ministry bought the letters with proceeds from an art auction in Moscow last July, which netted more than \$500,000 (\$900,000). Sotheby's negotiated the purchase from the estate of the Russian-born French choreographer and dancer Serge Lifar.

Hindus flock to Indian city for salvation dip

NEW DELHI (R) — Millions of devoted Hindus sought salvation Saturday by immersing themselves at the confluence of the Ganges and Yamuna in one of the world's biggest religious festivals.

The Kumbh Mela began in Allahabad after midnight when Sadhus — holy men — bathed to the sound of conch shells at the meeting place of the two sacred rivers.

Ascetics and leaders of Hindu sects, some accompanied by elephants, hands and hundreds of followers, have flocked into the north Indian city of four million

in the past few days.

Before first light thousands of ordinary pilgrims were jostling for position at the most auspicious spot in the belief that their holy dip would wash away all their sins.

By 7 a.m. (0130 GMT) more than one million people had already braved the icy winds sweeping the North Indian plain to take a dip, the Press Trust of India reported. Officials said up to another four million were expected to enter the water during the day.

The Kumbh Mela is held at one of four Indian cities every three

years but the biggest is at Allahabad every 12 years.

Hindus believe Allahabad became a sacred spot when gods and demons fought an epic battle over the Khumb, a pot holding the nectar of immortality.

During the struggle, drops of nectar fell at Allahabad, Hardwar, Ujjain and Nasik, the four places where the Kumbh Mela is held.

Officials say up to 60 million faithful will make the pilgrimage from all parts of India during the 45-day Mela. They expect 15 million to cram the bathing ghats for the holiest day, Feb. 6.

Elaborate precautions have been taken to keep control at the festival and prevent the sort of stampede that killed 46 people at Hardwar in 1986.

Police clearing the way for VIP visitors were blamed for the stampede and officials in Allahabad said union and state ministers had been warned to stay away on the four big bathing days of the festival.

More than 11,000 police have been deployed at the huge tent encampments set up to house pilgrims and to keep order at the Mela, which used to be notorious for crime and epidemics.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Prague to block Palach ceremony

PRAGUE (R) — The Czechoslovak authorities warned Friday that they were prepared to prevent a ceremony planned to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the suicide of student Jan Palach in protest against the 1968 Soviet-led invasion. The Charter 77 Human Rights Movement and four independent groups say they will defy an official ban and go ahead with plans for a brief ceremony Sunday on Wenceslas Square, where Palach burned himself alive Jan. 16, 1969.

Florida warns of immigrant flood

MIAMI (AP) — Hundreds of Nicaraguans and other Central Americans seeking a promised land are pouring into southern Florida, and officials expect about 100,000 new arrivals in the country over the next 18 months. But the latest refugees from Central America are coming to this immigrants' haven with no guarantee of food, shelter or social services, and officials are warning there will be very little support once they arrive. Isidoro Cuevas, the Cuban-born mayor of Sweetwater, said his city near Miami will have trouble absorbing the aliens. "We've been trying to gather clothes and food to pass it on to them," he said. "But there are many dwellings shared by more than one family already. People are sleeping on the front porches, sleeping on the couches."

8 killed in Alps cable car crash

GRENOBLE, France (AP) — Eight technicians trying out a modern cable car plunged to their deaths Friday in an accident near the ski resort town of l'Alpe d'Huez, local officials said. The victims, all from the region, were employed by a tourist association and the Pomagalsky Construction Company based in this mountainous town in the southeast. The cable car, which could hold 125 people, unbooked from its overhead line and dropped 200 metres to the bottom of a ravine. There was no immediate explanation why the car became unbooked from the cable, which was intact, the officials said. Rescue workers found the car quickly, but no one was alive.

Goetz resented

NEW YORK (AP) — Subway gunman Bernhard Goetz was sentenced to one year in jail and fined \$5,000 Friday for possessing the gun he used to shoot four black teenagers he feared would rob him on a Manhattan train. Goetz decided to go ahead with his resentencing, even though he has asked the U.S.

Supreme Court to review his case, because he wanted to get his jail time over with, said one of his lawyers. Goetz, who was acquitted of the most serious charges in the subway shooting but lost court appeals of his gun possession conviction, was resentenced by state Supreme Court Justice Stephen Crane in Manhattan, who noted the defendant had not shown remorse.

Renault prosecutor demands life

PARIS (R) — A public prosecutor demanded life sentences Friday for four urban guerrilla leaders accused of the 1986 murder of Renault motor company Chairman Georges Besse, asking for the defendants to serve at least 18 years in jail. "A crime remains a crime, whatever ideological rage it is dressed up in," prosecutor Raymond Galiber d'Auque told a packed court. Nathalie Menigon and Joelle Aubron are accused of shooting Besse as part of the French radical group Action Directe's war on Western capitalism. Jean-Marc Rouillon and Georges Cipriani are charged as accomplices. All four are already serving 10-year sentences for criminal conspiracy. Menigon and Rouillon have also received long prison terms for shooting at a policeman as well as staging two bank robberies.

Reagan gets low marks

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan got low marks Friday on a "report card" of military policy from three private watchdog groups who faulted his administration for its stance on chemical weapons, spending and long-range planning. Retired Rear Admiral Gene La Rocque, director of the private Centre for Defence Information (CDI), gave Reagan a failing grade for what he called the administration's hypocritical chemical warfare policy. He said U.S. participation in last week's Paris summit condemning chemical warfare came at a time when the United States, after an 18-year ban, had been producing chemical weapons for more than a year. CDI joined with two other non-partisan groups — the Committee for National Security (CNS) and the Federation of American Scientists (FAS) — to compile the "report card."

Indian plane hits 2 bulls

NEW DELHI (R) — An Indian Airlines plane with 98 people on board struck two bulls as it was taking off from an airport in north eastern India Wednesday but nobody was hurt. An airline spokesman said the pilot of the Boeing 737 aborted takeoff from Gauhati Airport in Assam after two bulls strayed onto the runway. "Nobody was hurt at all," he said.

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Etkisson

FRAGMENTED ENGLISH

W. RUSSELL MC DOWELL

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 - 2 Part of a "POE"
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